





## Rival Kurds resume peace talks in Turkey

ANKARA (Agencies) — Two rival Iraqi Kurdish groups — one backed by Iran, the other by Iraq — resumed peace talks under U.S. supervision Tuesday to try to turn a three-month-old cease-fire into a permanent one.

But the absence of their top leaders cast doubts about prospects for the talks' success. The Iran-backed Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Iraqi-backed Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) battled each other for weeks before the United States brokered a ceasefire in October, which has mostly held.

The latest round of talks, expected to last for two days, was scheduled to iron out remaining disagreements on just where each group's fighters can be grouped without antagonising their rivals.

Turkish Foreign Ministry announced Monday that PUK leader Jalal Talabani would attend the talks, but there was no indication whether his rival, KDP leader Massoud Barzani intended to come.

In any case, there was no sign of either leader on Tuesday. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau, who is co-chairing the talks with the Turkish hosts, said the talks were aimed at establishing "additional confidence-building measures for moving closer to political reconciliation."

But that goal appeared difficult. The lead KDP delegate, Sami Abdul Rahman, began his remarks by blaming the PUK for most of the current problems. PUK leader Talabani, meanwhile, held talks in Tehran on Tuesday with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati on the latest developments in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq, Iran's state television reported.

The PUK leader, in Tehran since late Monday, also briefed Mr. Velayati on the negotiations in Turkey with the KDP. The Iranian minister called for a "just" and peaceful settlement in the conflict in northern Iraq, and said his country would spare no efforts to contribute.

Mr. Talabani was to leave later Tuesday for Ankara.

Fighting flared in northern Iraq in late August as KDP forces, supported by Baghdad's troops, attacked the PUK and gained control of the Kurdish "capital" of Erbil.

The KDP and Baghdad accused Iran at the time of

supporting the PUK in a bid to increase its influence in the region, a charge denied by Tehran.

The two Kurdish factions later declared a ceasefire on Oct. 23 under U.S. pressure. Under a KDP-PUK agreement, the two sides have been working on the ground to determine a ceasefire line since early December.

The KDP and the PUK have controlled northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since the end of the 1991 Gulf war.

But their fragile power-sharing agreement broke down into armed conflict in May 1994 and an estimated 2,500 people have been killed in the ensuing fighting.

"We are here to make a permanent ceasefire and to ensure peace and stability," Turkish Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs Onur Oymen said at the opening of Tuesday's meeting.

Besides Mr. Oymen, the talks include Mr. Pelletreau, British diplomat Frank Baker and representatives of the two factions.

A delegation of Iraqi Kurds, led by Turcoman Front of Iraq chief Sinan Celebi, is also participating.

Mr. Oymen told the delegations, "We appreciate the efforts made by the parties concerned to maintain the ceasefire. We have established that they are confirming their determination to stamp out terrorism in the area."

He was referring to the presence in Iraqi Kurd-run northern Iraq of rebels from the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which has used the area as a rear base for its fight for a Kurdish homeland in heavily Kurdish eastern Turkey.

"We are certain that they (Iraqi Kurds) will cooperate to evacuate the Atush (camp)," Mr. Oymen said.

The camp, nearly 15 kilometers from the Turkish-Iraqi border in the KDP-controlled Dohuk area, houses about 14,000 Kurdish refugees from Turkey.

Turkey has been demanding since spring 1995 that the camp be closed, saying that it had turned into a PKK base.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has already pulled out of the camp, saying it cannot continue its operations because of the attitude of some "activists," a reference to PKK rebels.

But refugees there continue to receive UNHCR humanitarian aid on an individual basis.



**CLEARING:** Naim Zalloun, a Palestinian who lives adjacent to the Jewish settlement town of Kiryat Arba on the outskirts of Hebron, pulls away a coil of rusted barbed wire with his wooden cane on Tuesday as a settler speaks with Israeli soldiers. Jewish settlers in Kiryat Arba are replacing the security fence surrounding their settlement and Mr. Zalloun found his farm land blocked by the old wire which was discarded on his land. The Israeli army was called in and they allowed the Palestinian farmer to clear the wire (Reuters photo)

## Sudan rebels claim more gains in south

ASMARA (R) — The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) said on Tuesday a joint rebel force had captured key Sudanese government army garrisons at Al Kali, Daimonsour and Shali Al Fil in the southern Blue Nile region.

Its spokesman in Eritrea, Yassir Arman, told Reuters the operation was carried out on Monday by a joint force of the umbrella opposition group, the national democratic alliance.

"Yesterday NDA forces in the southern Blue Nile area captured these strategic garrisons," Mr. Arman said.

On Sunday the rebels said they had captured Kurmuk and some army garrisons in Blue Nile province in the first big combined operation by northern and southern opponents of the Islamist-dominated government in Khartoum.

In Khartoum, an armed forces statement referred only obliquely to a rebel role, saying that Ethiopian forces were operating along with what it called "remnants of agents and mercenaries."

The Sudanese government on Monday prepared

public opinion for a military campaign after the army said Ethiopian forces had attacked two border towns.

State radio and television broadcast patriotic and military songs and poetry, along with messages supporting the government and attacking what they called the Ethiopian aggression.

The radio said the Osman Digna Brigade of the paramilitary people's defence forces was preparing to leave Khartoum towards the border towns of Kurmuk and Qeissan, about 600 kilometres southeast of the capital.

President Omar Hassan Al Bashir has called for "general mobilisation" against the threat but the government has not announced any specific compulsory measures.

Diplomats in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, said the upsurge in fighting in Sudan was the reason behind the cancellation of a one-day visit to Kenya by General Bashir on Tuesday.

Gen. Bashir was to have had talks with President Daniel Arap Moi but the foreign ministry said the visit had been cancelled. It gave no reasons.

## Olmert goes on trial on tax scam charges

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli mayor of Jerusalem went on trial Tuesday proclaiming he was innocent of charges of giving false tax receipts as part of an illegal campaign contribution scheme eight years ago.

"We are interested in a quick trial, as short as possible," Ehud Olmert told reporters as he entered the Tel Aviv district court. "I have no interest in dragging anything out. I want to prove that the charges against me are completely baseless."

The court met for 30 minutes and granted the prosecution three weeks to prepare for trial. Israel army radio said.

Prosecutors allege that Mr. Olmert, as Likud Party treasurer in 1988, took part in a scam that involved setting up a fake advertising agency to give false receipts to advertisers, heads of corporations and other business people who made donations to Likud.

The donors then wrote off the contributions as tax-exempt business expenses.

Israeli law bars political contributions from businesses.

Mr. Olmert has also been charged with giving false

testimony to the state comptroller on Likud's election finances, allowing the party to collect more than \$6.7 million in campaign financing from the Israeli government.

The 51-year-old Olmert, who also is a member of Israel's parliament, relinquished his parliamentary immunity last year.

"The charges are not true," said Mr. Olmert as he entered the courtroom. "The question is who was involved and who wasn't and I wasn't involved."

Two other Likud officials who worked with Mr. Olmert have already been indicted for falsifying documents on the 1988 campaign and have implicated the mayor in the case.

Mr. Olmert is one of a number of leading figures from Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing government facing legal action. Yaacov Neeman was forced to resign as justice minister last year to stand trial for fraud and witness tampering.

Deputy Prime Minister Rafael Eitan, a former army chief of staff, is also under investigation for illegal use of confidential military documents.

## Israel orders over 200 Palestinians out of Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israel has ordered more than 200 Palestinian residents of Jerusalem to leave the city since the beginning of the year in a stepped-up campaign to reduce the Arab presence in the city, a Palestinian official said on Tuesday.

"We have seen a total of 233 Jerusalem residents who had their residences revoked over the past two weeks," said Azmi Abu Saud, the head of social services for the Orient House, the unofficial Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) office in East Jerusalem.

"They have been told they must leave the city within 15 days," he told AFP.

"They have been doing this for a long time, but since the New Year they have stepped it up," Mr. Abu Saud said, adding that previously his office received fewer than 30 reports a week of revoked identity cards.

"This is a form of ethnic cleansing. Israel wants to clear Jerusalem of its Arab residents," he said. More than half the 233 people involved couples,

mostly Jerusalem women married to Palestinians holding Jordanian passports and who had in the past lived outside Jerusalem for more than seven years, he said.

The remainder were mostly East Jerusalem residents who moved to suburbs outside the municipal boundaries to find homes.

Israel used records from health insurance applications to track down Jerusalem Palestinians who were residing outside the city, Mr. Abu Saud said.

The increase comes after the Israeli supreme court on Dec. 30 reconfirmed interior ministry policy under which Palestinian residents of Jerusalem who live elsewhere for seven years can have their Jerusalem ID's revoked.

Mr. Abu Saud said a total of 120,000 Palestinians, most of them currently living outside the city for work or study, faced having their valued Jerusalem residences revoked. Some 150,000 Palestinians live in Jerusalem's eastern sector.

## Israel expels 13 Nigerians who sought political refuge

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel expelled 13 illegal Nigerian immigrants on Tuesday despite claims by some that they were political refugees who could be executed by Nigeria's military government on their return.

The 13 had asked for political asylum and had been held for several months in Israeli prisons after being arrested for trying to work illegally in the country.

An Interior Ministry spokesman denied the Nigerians were political refugees, saying they had entered Israel for economic reasons.

She said their expulsion had been held up for several months because there are no direct commercial air links between the two countries and European nations refused to let the Nigerians through as transit passengers.

The issue came to a head on Monday when Nigerian Ambassador Ignacius Olisemeka initially refused to let Israel place the deportees aboard a Nigerian Airliner that was to bring 200 Christian

Nigerian pilgrims to the country overnight.

In retaliation, Interior Minister Eli Shussan ordered a freeze on all Christian pilgrim traffic from Nigeria "until they implement the agreement."

The measure was rescinded several hours later after the Nigerians agreed to fly the 13 illegal immigrants out of the country early Tuesday.

The ministry spokeswoman said 1,000 pilgrims were expected to visit Israel from Nigeria this month.

Mr. Olisemeka told AFP the 13 were not political activists and faced no persecution on their return home.

"They are just humble Nigerians picked up on the street by Israel," he said. Mr. Olisemeka insisted Nigerian-Israeli relations "are good" but added, "Jews should be more tolerant than they are."

"They should look at the big picture, we are very tolerant with them," he added, saying Israeli businessmen "make a lot of money" in Nigeria.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

73111-19

#### PROGRAMME TWO

13:05 .....Min Al Hadi Al Mohammadi  
13:30 .....Cartoon  
14:30 .....Science Fiction — Escape From Jupiter  
15:00 .....Feature Film  
16:50 .....Call For Prayer  
And After  
17:30 .....The Muppet Show  
18:00 .....Doc. — Ushuaia  
19:00 .....Le Journal  
19:15 Magazine — Sports Et Musique  
19:30 .....News Headlines  
19:35 .....Baker's Field P.D.  
20:02 .....Oriental Rugs  
20:30 .....Challenges  
21:10 .....N.B.A. Basketball  
22:00 .....News in English  
22:50 .....Journey into Islam  
23:50 .....Cobra  
23:50 .....Mini Series  
— The River Kings  
01:15 .....Ramadan Talks

#### PRAYER TIMES

05:11 .....Fajr  
06:32 .....(Sunrise)Dhuha  
11:45 .....Dhuhr  
14:34 .....Asr  
16:58 .....Maghreb  
18:19 .....Isha

#### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifelh, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.  
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366  
Anglican Church Tel. 652826  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.  
Armenian International Church Tel. 827126  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675591.  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295  
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

#### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology  
Under the effect of a cold air mass affecting the Kingdom and expected to last until Friday, rainfall is expected in all parts of the Kingdom with skies cloudy. Temperatures will drop significantly and winds becoming westerly active to northerly active. In Aqaba, skies will be partly cloudy, winds northerly mod-

erate to active and seas calm.  
Amman .....05/13  
Aqaba .....10/20  
Deserts .....04/18  
Jordan Valley .....09/19  
Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 17, Aqaba 23 Humidity readings: Amman 45 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

#### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY  
Dr. Khalil Abu Marjoub 779797  
Dr. Fayed Al Dabbas 759155  
Dr. Adnan Zaghloul .....898140  
Dr. Mazen Al Nballi 830435  
Firas pharmacy .....661912  
Ferdows pharmacy .....890280  
Al Asena pharmacy .....637055  
Al Salam pharmacy .....636730  
Yacoub pharmacy .....644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660  
Nairokh pharmacy .....623672  
Najib pharmacy .....847632  
IRBID:  
Dr. Mazen Abu Baker .....276852  
Al Quds pharmacy .....(—)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Mazen Al Safarini .....985832  
Khalifeh pharmacy .....985417

#### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111  
Civil Defence Department 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

#### Civil Defence Emergency

199  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade .....617101  
Blood Bank .....775121  
Highway Police .....843402  
Traffic Police .....896390  
Public Security Department 630321  
Hotel Complaints .....605800  
Price Complaints .....661176  
Water and Sewerage Complaints .....897467  
Amman Municipality Complaints .....787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) .....121  
Overseas Calls .....010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs .....623101  
Abdall Telephone Repairs 661101  
Jordan Television .....773111  
Radio Jordan .....774111  
Water Authority .....680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615  
Electric Power Company 656381  
RJ Flight Information 08-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

#### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Husseln Medical Centre 813813/32  
Khalidi Maternity, 644281/6

#### Akileh Maternity, 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman .....636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071  
Shmeisani Hospital 669131  
University Hospital 845845  
Al-Muasher Hospital 687227/9  
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali .....664164/6  
Iltikan, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3  
At-Bashir .....775111/26  
Army, Marka .....891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50  
Amal Hospital .....674155  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery .....865199  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990  
IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275  
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

#### FOR THE TRAVELLER

Other Flights  
09:30 .....Cairo (MS)  
10:00 .....Sanaa, Hudaidah (TY)  
10:30 .....Jeddah (SV)  
12:35 .....Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)  
12:40 .....Abu Dhabi (GF)

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250).

#### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
08:35 .....Jeddah (RJ)  
08:50 .....Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
09:15 .....Larnaca, Damascus (RJ)  
14:45 .....New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
16:00 .....Madrid (RJ)  
16:25 .....Toronto, Montreal (RJ)  
17:00 .....Jeddah (add) (RJ)  
18:10 .....London, Berlin (RJ)  
18:15 .....Frankfurt, Istanbul (RJ)  
19:00 .....Paris, Brussels (RJ)  
19:30 .....Rome (RJ)  
20:15 .....Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)  
23:10 .....Beirut (RJ)  
01:20 .....Cairo (RJ)  
03:55 .....Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

#### Other Flights

09:30 .....Cairo (MS)  
10:00 .....Sanaa, Hudaidah (TY)  
10:30 .....Jeddah (SV)  
12:35 .....Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)  
12:40 .....Abu Dhabi (GF)

#### 13:50 .....Beirut, Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)

14:30 .....Tunis (TU)  
15:05 .....Vienna (OS)  
15:45 .....Algiers (AF)  
20:10 .....Beirut (ME)  
21:00 .....Paris, Damascus (AF)  
21:40 .....Tel Aviv (LY)  
22:30 .....Larnaca (CY)  
22:45 .....Athens, Beirut (OA)  
23:10 .....Istanbul (TK)  
23:15 .....Amsterdam (KL)  
01:55 .....London (BA)

#### Royal Wings (RW) Flights

09:20 .....Aqaba (RW)  
18:55 .....Tel Aviv (RW)

#### DEPARTURES

08:30 .....Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
10:00 .....Istanbul, Rome (RJ)  
10:40 .....Berlin, London (RJ)  
11:25 .....Casablanca (RJ)  
12:00 .....Jeddah (add) (RJ)  
18:00 .....Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)  
19:30 .....Colombo (RJ)  
19:35 .....Beirut (RJ)  
20:05 .....Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)  
20:30 .....New Delhi (RJ)  
21:00 .....Bombay (RJ)  
21:00 .....Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)  
21:15 .....Dhahran, Muscat (RJ)  
21:45 .....Cairo (RJ)  
22:45 .....Sanaa (RJ)

#### Other Flights

07:45 .....Beirut (ME)  
10:20 .....Cairo (MS)  
11:00 .....Hudaidah, Sanaa (TY)  
12:00 .....Jeddah (SV)  
13:30 .....Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)

#### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.  
Apple .....700/500  
Banana .....550/550

Banana (imported) .....900/700  
Cabbage .....70/40  
Carrot .....300/180  
Cauliflower .....160/100  
Cucumber (large) .....250/150  
Cucumber (small) .....350/250  
Eggplant .....130/80  
Fava beans .....950/700  
Garlic .....1100/800  
Grape fruit .....160/80  
Lemon .....390/250  
Marrow (large) .....150/100  
Marrow (small) .....200/150  
Onion (green) .....170/100  
Onion (dry) .....200/100  
Orange .....580/400  
Peas .....1050/700  
Pepper (hot) .....280/150  
Pepper (sweet) .....280/150  
Potato .....200/150  
Spinach .....180/120  
String beans .....620/400  
Tomato .....150/100  
String beans .....600/400  
Tomato .....170/100

#### WHAT'S ON

\* Performance by oud solo Cultural Centre, main theatre

\* Paintings by Muhammad Gallery, Issam Ajlouni Street

\* Photographic exhibition Pakistan at Quid-e-Azam, Jabil Wehdeh (Tel. 622787)

\* Works by contemporary New Collection" at Darat Al 643251/2, until Feb. 27.

\* Works by Jordanian artists tre, until Jan. 30.

\* Works by Spanish painter Cervantes, Jabil Amman

## Princess and sustainer

ANMAN (AFP) — The Princess Basmah, Tuesday, announced the launch of a sustainable development programme for the Kingdom, which aims at achieving development in a harmonious way with the resolution of the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

According to a Queen Alia Fund for Social Development statement, the Princess addressed a workshop, organised by the General Corporation for Environmental Protection (GCEP), in cooperation with the UNDP, designed to launch the programme.

She stressed the importance of maintaining strong links between the environment and the development process, emphasising conservation and protection of Jordan's natural resources.

The Princess affirmed that Jordan has sufficient political will and public awareness to efficiently utilise resources in achieving sustainable development.

She attested that the entire society must participate in development as only the whole can play a vital role in promoting awareness of development-related issues. Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzaq Tubashat also spoke, confirming that Jordan has

## Government, to combat unemployment

ZARQA (Petra) — The government, through the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC), is in the process of executing programmes designed to combat unemployment and is seeking close cooperation with various international organisations. Minister of Labour Abdul Hafez Shakhaneh said Tuesday.

The minister was speaking at a ceremony, held at the Hashemite district of the Zarqa governorate, to inaugurate a modern drivers' training centre and asserted the centre as the first to employ modern techniques and up to date equipment in training courses for drivers of various types.

Dr. Shakhaneh, who is also VTC board chairman, affirmed that VTC centres have heretofore provided training for 122,000 Jordanian workers and will continue to provide consultancy services to small and medium-sized industries in Jordan and in the Arab World.

He said that the VTC continues to maintain links both nationally and internationally in developing training methods and improving the efficiency and skill of its driving instructors.

VTC Director General Ali Nawafleh described the



## Princess announces launch of Jordanian sustainable development programme

AMMAN (J.T.) — HRH Princess Basma Tuesday announced the launch of Jordan's sustainable development programme for the 21st century which aims at achieving development in accordance with the resolutions of the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

According to a Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF) statement, the Princess addressed the opening ceremony of a workshop, organised by the General Corporation for Environmental Protection (GCEP) in cooperation with the UNDP, designed to launch the programme.

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HRH Princess Basma speaks during launch of sustainable development programme in accordance with Earth Summit resolutions (Petra photo)

taken important steps in recent years in the field of environmental protection, such as the signing of the World Strategy for Nature Conservation as well as the endorsement of local environmental legislation.

He said the present programme was the outcome of cooperation between the GCEP and UNDP and pledged that all in Jordan would contribute to implementing this project.

Project Director Riyadh Musa maintained that this national programme shared

components of sustainable development, namely the environment, the economy and the citizen, the statement said.

He said the programme tackles various issues related to natural resources, energy, environment, the natural heritage and aesthetics. It also covers poverty, unemployment, the role of women, youth and housing, according to the statement.

Forty five experts are taking part in the two-day workshop.

The statement described the national sustainable development programme for the 21st century as a direct by-product of its commitment in implementing the Earth Summit's recommendations.

These urge the world to take the necessary measures to eradicate poverty and hunger, provide health care for all, change patterns of overconsumption and enable grass-root organisations to take part in national planning and policies and promote scientific research.

## 'Modest increase' in tourism to the Kingdom in 1996

By Ghaila Alul  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The number of tourists visiting the Kingdom in 1996 registered a modest increase of 2.8 per cent over the 1995 figure with revenues reaching \$770 million, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Saleh Irsheidat stated Tuesday.

In a press conference, Dr. Irsheidat maintained that the tourism sector, expected to prosper in 1996, was affected by political events in the region such as the stalemate in the peace process.

The Israeli attack on south Lebanon late last year and the opening of a tunnel in Jerusalem in August dissuaded tourists from the region and negatively affected the tourism sector in Jordan through travel cancellations, Dr. Irsheidat told journalists.

However, he asserted that Jordan, with a small population and a modest Gross Domestic Product (GDP), in comparison to other countries of the region, has achieved significant success in the field of tourism.

"Last year Jordan attracted tourists from Southeast

Asia and the United States, registering a notable increase of tourists visiting from the United States," Dr. Irsheidat said.

The government, he said, has begun drawing a comprehensive strategy for the development of the tourism sector up through the year 2010.

It has also conducted a plan to improve the areas between Amman and Karak in a bid to encourage tourism in these areas, he added.

The minister stated that the government is currently working on six core projects for the restructuring of the tourism sector at an estimated cost of \$76 million.

Dr. Irsheidat described these projects as including a national museum, a project for the development of Salt, a project for the development of Karak, a project for the development of central Amman and a panoramic project overlooking the Dead Sea as well as infrastructure projects such as the Dead Sea-Madaba highway.

He estimated the time-frame of all six projects as achieving completion in five years.



Saleh Irsheidat

Dr. Irsheidat asserted that the ministry is close to signing an agreement with the World Bank regarding the completion of two projects in Petra and Wadi Rum.

These projects, he said, will train citizens in Petra and Wadi Rum in traditional industries in order to benefit from the influx of tourism in both areas.

Dr. Irsheidat also maintained that the government will commence water and sewage projects in Petra in March at an estimated cost of \$30 million.

Dr. Irsheidat added that the Kingdom has witnessed a tangible increase in

tourist investments to \$500 million in 1995 and 1996.

The number of hotel rooms increased from 8,565 in 1995 to 9,406 rooms in 1996, he said.

Last year, the ministry approved the establishment of 29 new hotels at an estimated cost of JD 80 million, Dr. Irsheidat added.

But, he said that "the fruits of investments in the tourism sector are not short-term."

However, Dr. Irsheidat noted that some benefits have started to emerge in the form of international companies which have come to the Kingdom.

"The setting up of many joint projects in a very short time is an indicator that Jordan is going in the right direction," Dr. Irsheidat said.

He urged the private sector to promote their activities taking advantage of the myriad of facilities provided by the public sector.

Dr. Irsheidat concluded that Jordan still needs to develop the tourism sector through providing incentives as well as improving tourist facilities in Aqaba, Petra and Wadi Rum.

## ers over stinians rusalem

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ZARQA (Petra) — The government, through the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC), is in the process of executing programmes designed to combat unemployment and is seeking close cooperation with various international organisations, Minister of Labour Abdul Hafez Shakhanbeh said Tuesday.

The minister was speaking at a ceremony, held at the Hashemieh district of the Zarqa governorate, to inaugurate a modern drivers' training centre and asserted the centre as the first to employ modern techniques and up to date equipment in training courses for drivers of various ages.

Dr. Shakhanbeh, who is also VTC board chairman, affirmed that VTC centres have heretofore provided training for 122,000 Jordanian workers and will continue to provide consultancy services to small and medium sized industries in Jordan and in the Arab World.

He said that the VTC continues to maintain links both nationally and internationally in developing training methods and improving the efficiency and skill of its driving instructors.

VTC Director General Ali Nasrallah described the new Hashemieh centre as employing modern equipment and machinery in training drivers enabling those suffering from slight handicaps to participate in instruction.

Centre Director Ziyad Haddadin explained that the new facility forms part of the VTC's overall training programme, originally suggested by HRH Crown Prince Hassan, and is designed to train Jordanians so that they can take the place of guest chauffeurs and vehicle conductors.

The centre was set up on 100 dunums of land, donated to the VTC by the Jordanian Armed Forces, cost JD 300,000 in construction costs plus JD 500,000 worth of equipment installed for training purposes, he added.

Subsequent to the opening ceremony, Dr. Shakhanbeh inspected different sections of the centre which, not including training fields, comprise offices and halls for instructing drivers who commit traffic violations within the Zarqa governorate.

The minister was accompanied by the mayor of Hashemieh, the president of the Jordanian Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents and local officials.

## EDF works out 1997 intensive plan for loan allocation

AMMAN (Petra) — The Employment and Development Fund (EDF) has worked out an intensive plan for 1997 and 1998 to promote the fund as an umbrella institution, allocating loans for projects either directly to the beneficiaries, themselves, or through commercial banks and other organisations.

EDF Director General Ali Qubbaa Tuesday affirmed that the plan aims to develop and modernise lending policies parallel to the country's economic situation, give loans for joint projects, offer technical assistance and finance socio-economic development endeavours.

The plan envisages the acquisition of JD 2.5 million from the fiscal budget to be given as direct loans to individuals and organisations during 1997 and JD 4.5 million during 1998.

It also envisages the allocation of JD 13 million to finance local com-

munity development and assist projects implemented by women, he added.

The plan also outlines greater cooperation with non-governmental and voluntary institutions such as the Agricultural Credit Corporation, the General Union of Voluntary Societies, the Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development.

Mr. Qubbaa described the new plan as raising the amount of loan granted from JD 10,000 to JD 15,000 for individuals, however, he maintained that the interest on the loans will rise from 6.5 per cent to nine per cent.

He attested that the EDF will closely cooperate with the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) to provide training for people who intend to begin their own business or workshops with EDF funding.

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## Japanese donate \$36,793 for refugee project

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government of Japan has resolved to donate \$36,793 to the Saqer Quraysh Society in the form of leather sewing equipment to enable Palestinian refugee women to create leather products.

The grant contract was signed Tuesday by President of the Saqer Quraysh Society Miriam M. Jubreil and Ambassador of Japan to Jordan Takayuki Kimura.

Saqer Quraysh Society has been supporting the Marqa Refugee Camp Palestinian women through vocational training since 1994.

A statement from the Japanese embassy enumerated the donated equipment as shoe sewing and designing machines and stated that it will enable the society to train refugee women to make leather shoes.

The shoes will be sold for less than market price to indigent families who cannot afford shoes for their children. The donation is expected to open job opportunities for Palestinian refugee women and to help improve the camp's standard of living.

According to the statement, the grant is provided within the framework of Japanese Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Projects (GAGP). The grant assistance has been extended mainly to non-governmental organisations (NGOs), research institutes, hospitals and local governments, with emphasis on such areas as primary health care, poverty relief, basic job training, women in development, the environment, primary education and assistance to the disabled.

Through GAGP, Japan has so far donated \$1,523,176 to Jordan. The GAGP grants for the fiscal 1996 year (April 1996-March 1997) to Jordan is expected to total \$700,000.



President of the Saqer Quraysh Society Miriam M. Jubreil and Ambassador of Japan to Jordan Takayuki Kimura Tuesday sign grant in which Japan pledges to donate \$36,793 to aid vocational training of Palestinian women (Petra photo)

## Minister denies discord with EU

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Khaled Madadba Tuesday denied a report published in Al Dustour daily alleging that the signing of a partnership agreement between Jordan and the European Union (EU) had been indefinitely postponed.

"There is no truth to this report and, on the contrary, talks have advanced towards the agreement's conclusion," Mr. Madadba said, quoting Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf as confirming that the agreement is still slated to be signed in the first half of this year.

Head of the EU Delegation in Amman Yves Gazzo also described the report as groundless, adding that partnership negotiations have reached their final stage and that the two sides are finalising the accord.

Al Dustour had quoted a Ministry of Planning source as saying that the signing had been delayed due to discord between the two sides.

The source had apparently also attested that the EU had imposed severe conditions which Jordan had rejected as violating the Kingdom's sovereignty.

The report also said that the EU insisted that Jordan bear responsibility for Arab refugees through the issuance of Jordanian passports enabling them to travel to Europe in spite of these potentially holding citizenship in another Arab country.

The article stated that Jordan had enjoined the EU to increase the number of agricultural products to be marketed in Europe but that EU agricultural countries had objected to this demand allegedly stating that this might harm their own interests.

The source reportedly also stated that the EU had obligated Jordan to sign an accord guaranteeing intellectual property rights within five years in accordance with World Trade Organisation regulations but that a five-year period was insufficient for Jordanian industries to adapt to the new protocol.

The partnership agreement is designed to ensure free trade between Europe and Jordan by the year 2010, effectively exempting Jordanian goods, entering European markets, from customs duty.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### House delays session for Arbor Day

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament postponed a session scheduled for Tuesday until Sunday to allow deputies to partake in Jordan's celebration of Arbor Day, which will be held today under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein in the North Jordan valley area. The decision to postpone was effected by House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srou. In another development Tuesday the House Financial And Economic Committee commenced discussions related to the new customs law. The meeting was attended by Finance Minister Marwan Awad and Director General of the Customs Department Nazmi Abdullah.

### AACO to convene in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — The Consultative Council of Arab Air Carriers Organisation's (AACO) Training Centre is slated to convene in Amman on Jan. 25 to discuss the regional centre's plan of action and its budget for 1997, according to Centre Director Mousa Anz. He affirmed that the council will also endorse an agreement already concluded with the Beirut-based American University. The agreement stipulates that the university will introduce a diploma training programme in civil aviation. Mr. Anz confirmed that an agreement has been finalised with the International Air Transport Association to hold 28 specialised aviation training courses at the centre during 1997 and 1998.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### CONCERT

Performance by oud soloist Munir Bashir at the Royal Cultural Centre, main theatre, at 8:00 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

Paintings by Muhammad Ali Shaker at the Orient Gallery, Issam Ajlouni Street, Shmeisani, until Jan. 30.

Photographic exhibition on the life of the Founder of Jordan at Quaid-e-Azam Hall, Embassy of Pakistan, J. Weibdeh (Tel. 622787, 624580), until January 31.

Works by contemporary Arab artists entitled "The Collection" at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, (Tel. 62112), until Feb. 27.

Works by Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Jan. 30.

Works by Spanish painter Clara Amado at Instituto de Bellas Artes, Jabal Amman until Jan. 15.

### Bashir to perform 'oud meditation'

AMMAN (J.T.) — On Wednesday, January 15, under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, the Main Theatre of the Royal Cultural Centre will stage an evening of meditation on the oud by globally renowned master of the oud and art of maqam, Munir Bashir, according to a National Music Conservatory statement.

Born in Mosul, Iraq, Munir Bashir is the descendant of an Iraqi musical family. He spent six years as an apprentice of Sharif Muhyiddin Haydar at the Institute of Arab Music in Baghdad, learning to play oud and cello. He resumed his higher education in music at the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest, Hungary and received his Ph.D. from the Academy of Sciences, Popular and Traditional Arts Department, under the supervi-

sion of Hungarian composer Zoltan Kodaly. Recognised in the Arab World, as a master of the instrument, Munir Bashir is the leading representative of the art of maqam. His music springs from authentic tradition, the statement said.

Since 1954, Munir Bashir has performed in more than 50 countries in Asia and Europe as well as in the U.S. He has received numerous awards, prizes and decorations, including the Medal of Independence from His Majesty King Hussein.

The brilliance of Bashir's skill will be enhanced by the unique programme he has prepared featuring "A Tour with the Oud," "Mawlawi" music on "Saba" maqam, "Bashrii," "Love and Tender" and "Between North and South".

13:50	Beirut via Iraq
14:30	Karachi via India
15:30	Amman via Iraq
16:30	Amman via Iraq
22:30	Amman via Iraq
23:10	Amman via Iraq
23:55	Damascus via Iraq

### MARKET PRICES

Upper 2nd	100.00
Apple	550.00
Banana	600.00
Barana compressed	70.00
Cabbage	300.00
Carrot	100.00
Cauliflower	150.00
Cucumber (large)	250.00
Cucumber (small)	150.00
Eggplant	950.00
Fava Beans	1000.00
Garlic	100.00
Grape (fruit)	200.00
Lemon	150.00
Marrow (large)	170.00
Marrow (small)	100.00
Onion (green)	200.00
Onion (white)	350.00
Peas	1050.00
Pepper (hot)	250.00
Pepper (sweet)	250.00
Potato	150.00
Spinach	250.00
String Beans	150.00
Tomato	170.00



## Belarus leader backs Yeltsin's merger plan; opens assembly

MINSK (R) — Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, delighted at Russian leader Boris Yeltsin's call to speed a proposed merger of their states, opened a new chamber of parliament and ignored new Western censure of his rule.

Mr. Lukashenko Monday inaugurated the Council of the Republic, the upper house of a new assembly packed with his supporters, created after he secured victory in a November referendum on expanding his powers. The old parliament, many of whose members opposed him, was dissolved.

"You have nothing to be ashamed of. You are not pretenders. You are elected by the people," Mr. Lukashenko told the chamber.

"The most dreadful thing before was legislation which did not work in our poor country. Your job is to check laws passed by the lower house to ensure they do work."

In the French city of Strasbourg, the Council of Europe suspended Belarus's special guest status, saying the new legislature had no democratic legitimacy.

Leni Fischer, president of the parliamentary assembly of the council, which oversees human rights in Europe, pronounced Belarus's new constitution illegal and falling short of minimum democratic standards. Belarus remains the only country outside former Yugoslavia yet to be admitted to the council.

Mr. Lukashenko expressed pleasure at an announcement in Moscow that Mr. Yeltsin, bedridden with pneumonia, wanted to speed up efforts at union. He has long complained that a pact creating a "community" signed last April had made little progress.

"If Boris Nikolayevich is ready, you know my position — I have long been ready," he told reporters. "This is our baby, mine and the Russian president's. And I think we should promote this process, and implement it."

Mr. Lukashenko brushes aside accusations that he runs roughshod over elementary freedoms in his country of 10 million.

Last month, he bluntly told leaders attending a summit of the 54-nation Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe not to meddle in the affairs of his former Soviet republic sandwiched between Russia and Poland.

Belarus's new 64-member upper house is made up of officials elected to generally conservative local councils plus a number of members appointed by Mr. Lukashenko.

Mr. Lukashenko's five appointees were conservatives and included officials who once acted as chairman of parliament, head of the Supreme Court and health minister.

The representatives from local government were virtually unknown to the Belarusian public and included state and

collective farm directors, teachers and doctors.

Deputies stood to the Soviet-era national anthem, entitled Belarusians Together With Fraternal Russia, and voted in rapid succession to approve unanimously candidates for the chamber's chairman and his deputy.

"You can see we have professionals here and not the whining bunch we had before," Mr. Lukashenko said in applauding the votes.

Meanwhile, Russia's Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov Tuesday criticised a Kremlin initiative to speed a merger between Russia and neighbouring Belarus as "political intrigue" but said he was not against a union in principle.

"Destroyers cannot unite," said Mr. Zyuganov, referring to the deal President Yeltsin signed in 1991 which destroyed the Soviet Union.

Mr. Yeltsin's move grabbed the initiative from his Communist and nationalist opponents at a time when they are putting pressure on him over his ill health and a budget crisis which has left millions of workers and pensions without pay.

Mr. Zyuganov, whose party campaigns for the restoration of the Soviet Union, attacked the plan for its timing rather than its content. "It's political intrigue," he told Interfax.

Other nationalist opposition figures took a similar line. "It's a political trick," said Mr. Yeltsin's outspoken and ambitious former security chief Alexander Lebed.

"The idea itself is a good one, but considering the timing of the announcement, it looks like another attempt to divert Russian society's attention away from vital internal state problems," he told Interfax.

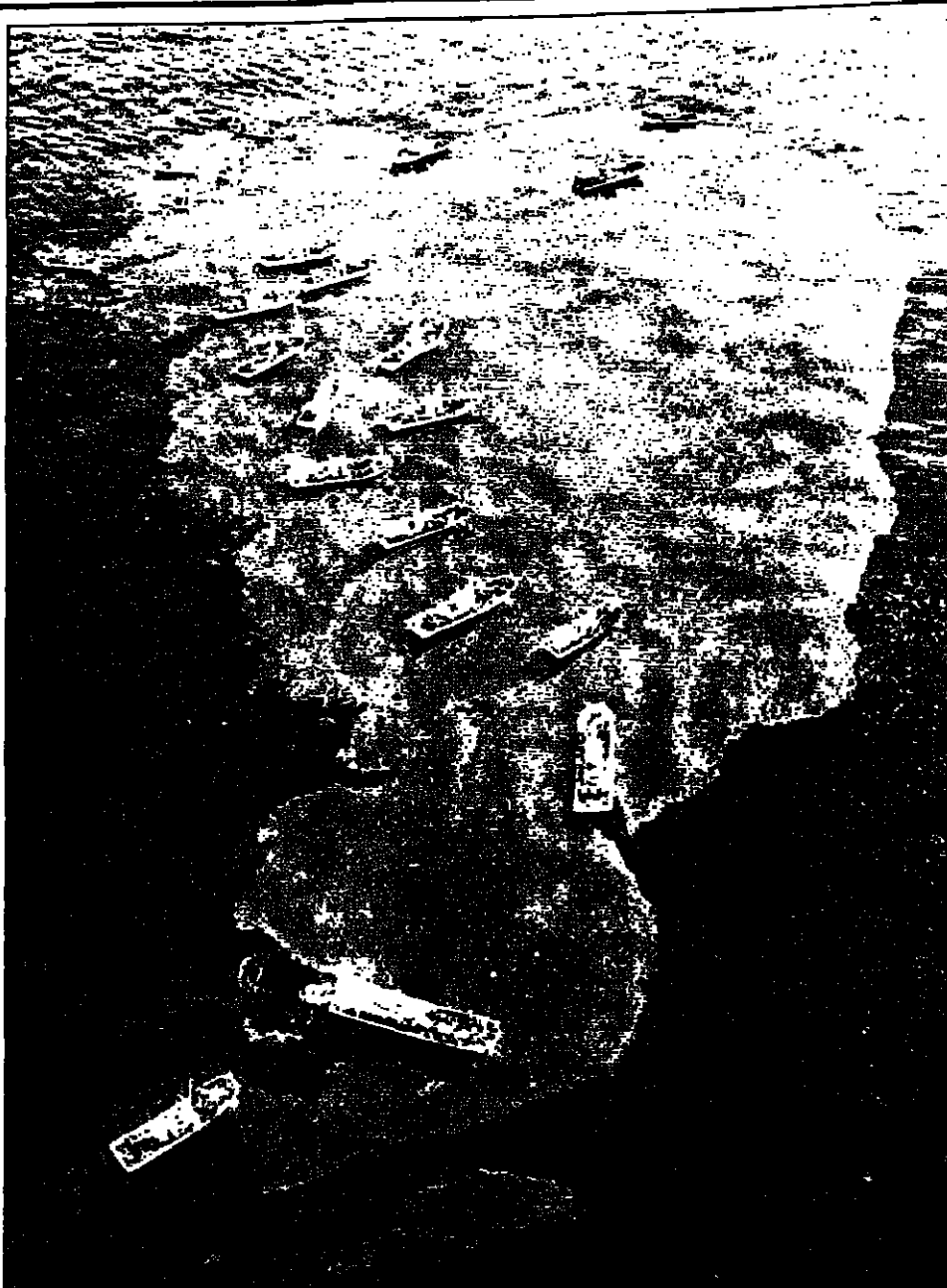
"The Belarusian card, which has become fashionable in recent times, has been played again."

Both Gen. Lebed and Mr. Zyuganov said that if Mr. Yeltsin had really wanted integration he should have worked on a pre-election initiative signed last year to strengthen ties with Belarus.

"I find this suggestion rather strange. As soon as the internal situation in the country gets worse, it becomes acceptable to throw in new ideas," Mr. Zyuganov said.

"We want Russia to merge with Belarus, Ukraine and other states of the former union. But those who trampled this idea under foot should have been more energetic in implementing the plan of April 2 last year to create a commonwealth between Russia and Belarus, and this has not been done," he said.

Gen. Lebed said he thought the latest initiative had been thought up by people around the president, who he says is too sick to rule Russia and should step down.



A huge slick of oil spreads off Japan's northern coast of Wajima as fishing boats set off in efforts to collect the heavy oil spilled from ruptured Russian tanker Nakhodka Monday. Maritime officials still have no firm figure on how much oil has escaped from the tanker but admit that an earlier estimate of 3,700 tonnes (26,000 barrels) was too low (Reuters photo)

## Fresh oil slick spotted near Japan coast from sunken Russian tanker

TOKYO (AFP) — A fresh oil slick from a sunken Russian tanker moved closer to the Japanese coastline Tuesday, threatening to expand environmental devastation to a seventh prefecture, Coast Guard officials said.

The slick, about 34 kilometres long and up to 200 metres wide, was moving east in waters to the north-east of the Oki Islands in the Sea of Japan.

Six prefectures — Ishikawa, Fukui, Kyoto, Hyogo, Tottori and Shimane — have so far been hit by the spill. With the slick moving north around the Noto peninsula Tuesday, Toyama was also being threatened for the first time.

Two Russian clean-up vessels were headed to the area to join Japanese ships, and the Russian ambassador to Japan also plans to visit the coastline, officials said.

The Russian tanker Nakhodka was carrying a load of 17,000 tonnes of fuel oil from China to the Russian Far East when it broke in two in a heavy storm Jan. 2 some 150 kilometres off the Oki Islands.

The spill has spread to a 400 kilometre stretch of coastline, destroying shell-

fish, marine birds and edible seaweed while threatening to disrupt 15 nuclear reactors in the area which use seawater as coolant.

The bow, which is resting on a reef about 200 metres offshore at Mikuni town in Fukui prefecture, is still leaking and believed to contain about 2,800 tonnes of oil.

Transport Ministry officials said they began trying to extract oil from the bow Tuesday to prevent further leakage.

A 4,000-tonne Russian oil-cleaning ship which left the island of Sakhalin Sunday was scheduled to reach off-shore at Hakodate on the island of Hokkaido Tuesday morning.

The Neftgas 5 is being joined by a second Russian vessel which set sail from Vladivostok Monday night. The 1,120-tonne Lazurit is due to arrive in the area Friday, Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said.

Environment Agency Director-General Michiko Ishii said she planned to visit Toyama and the adjacent prefecture of Fukui Wednesday.

Fukui prefectural government officials said Russian

Ambassador Alexander Pannov would meet with Governor Yukio Kurita Wednesday morning. The officials said the ambassador would also visit Mikuni town, where the bow of the Russian vessel washed up last week.

The Yomiuri Shimbun reported Tuesday that the Russian owner of the tanker said it would take full responsibility for the incident, which is already believed to have resulted in 3,700 tonnes of oil being spilled.

In a telephone interview with the newspaper, Sergei Vitkovskiy, president of Prisco Traffic, said he was sorry for the damage caused by the vessel to people living along the Sea of Japan.

Mr. Vitkovskiy reaffirmed that the company was prepared to provide full compensation, even if the costs exceeded the amount of the firm's insurance coverage, which is worth \$500 million.

The six Japanese prefectures affected by the spill were to hold a liaison meeting in Tokyo Tuesday to submit requests to the central government for financial support and measures to restore the area, officials said.

## Chechen warlord would have Russian leaders tried if elected

BONN (AFP) — Chechen warlord Shamil Basayev, who is running for president in upcoming polls, has said he would have Russian leaders tried in an international court over the Chechen war if elected, the German magazine Bild reported Tuesday.

"If I am president, I would get up an international tribunal against Russian leaders for conducting the war," he told the magazine, which said only that Commander Basayev had been interviewed in his "headquarters."

"Russia took all our people hostage for two years," he said.

Commander Basayev added, however, that he was prepared to "cooperate with Russia."

"I would even be ready to take up a place at table with the worst of the Russian devils if anything whatsoever could be got out of it for us," he said.

Russian forces invaded

Chechnya in late 1994 to quash the republic's independence bid. A peace agreement was signed between the two sides in August last year and the republic is due to hold presidential and legislative elections this month.

Commander Basayev said collaboration with Russia would only be his fourth priority if he were elected. "I would put independence for the republic in top position, then a determined war on crime would be undertaken, thirdly we would need to improve the people's situation quickly, and fourthly I would cooperate with Russia," he said.

Commander Basayev, who described as his models Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara, Italian General Giuseppe Garibaldi, and former French and U.S. presidents Charles de Gaulle and Franklin Roosevelt, said legislation would be based on Chechen tradi-

tions and the Sharia, or Islamic Law, if he were elected.

"We are expecting no presents from the West," he said. "What is important for us is that the West stops financing Russia's imperialist ambitions."

The West has paid \$20,000 for the death of every Chechen and 100,000 Chechens died in total."

Most estimates suggest that around 40,000 people, Russians and Chechens, died during the 21-month war.

Commander Basayev is best known for carrying out a raid on the town of Budyonnovsk in southern Russia in June 1995. Over 1,000 people were taken hostage and at least 150 killed during the crisis.

Commander Basayev himself escaped after negotiating an exit with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

## Clinton urges Senate to sign chemical arms pact

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton Monday urged the new Senate to ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) by the end of April to avoid what he said would be damage to U.S. national security and the chemical industry.

"Early CWC ratification by the United States is extraordinarily important," he said in a White House statement. "The security of our soldiers and citizens is at stake, as is the economic well-being of our chemical industry."

His statement, and a similar appeal from the State Department, marked the fourth anniversary of the signature of the convention, whose ratification by the United States has been blocked by opponents in the Senate.

Now that more than 65 countries have ratified the pact, it is due to go into force on April 29, with or without the United States.

America and Russia, which has also not ratified it, are the only two countries to admit possessing chemical arms.

The convention bans the production, stockpiling and use of poison gases.

The White House statement said that if the United States did not ratify the treaty by April 29, it would be barred from the council overseeing the pact and its citizens could not serve as international inspectors verifying the treaty.

The U.S. chemical industry would be subject to punitive measures resulting in the potential loss of up to \$600 million a year in export sales and many jobs, it added.

"I urge the Senate to act promptly to ensure that the United States remains at the forefront of international efforts to combat the spread of weapons of mass destruction and the U.S. chemical industry maintains its international competitiveness," Mr. Clinton said.

"I look forward to working with the Senate leadership to get the job done."

The Clinton administration struck a deal with the Senate to vote on ratification last September.

But a last-minute shift against the treaty by Republican presidential contender Bob Dole led to administration fears it might fail to gain the required two-thirds majority, and the vote was put off until this year.

Republican opponents of the treaty say it will not stop "rogue states" that have not signed it from developing chemical weapons, and will subject some 8,000 U.S. companies to onerous inspections and possible industrial espionage.

The U.S. government says the treaty, signed by the Republican administration of former President George Bush, enjoys the support of military leaders, the chemical industry and law enforcement officials.

The convention "will make our nation more secure, helping to ensure our troops never face poison gas in the battlefield and our people never fall victim to it in a terrorist attack," said State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns.

The treaty is currently with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, whose chairman, Republican Jesse Helms of North Carolina, is an opponent and has extensive powers to prevent it going to the full Senate.

John Holm, director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, said the administration had held preliminary discussions with Senate majority leader Trent Lott and others, but no commitments had been obtained so far.

## France offers mediation on Karabakh

PARIS (R) — French President Jacques Chirac told visiting Azeri President Heydar Aliyev Monday that France was willing to help broker a settlement between Armenia and Azerbaijan in their nine-year dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh.

"France is ready to work to promote a solution between Armenia and Azerbaijan in Nagorno-Karabakh — a balanced solution between two countries which are friends for us," Mr. Chirac said after attending the signing of an oil exploration deal with the visiting Azeri leader.

He said the conflict over the enclave with a majority ethnic Armenian population

within Muslim Azerbaijan created "a situation of instability" between the two Caucasian neighbours.

Mr. Aliyev stressed his determination to make peace with Armenia "on condition that Azerbaijan's territorial integrity is respected, that armed gangs leave the territory and that refugees are permitted to return home."

A fragile ceasefire has held in Nagorno-Karabakh since 1994 after Armenia captured a slice of Azeri territory leading to the enclave. About 10,000 people were killed in fighting which flared in Nagorno-Karabakh in 1988 and up to one million refugees still

live in tent camps. Since the beginning of this month, France has become co-chairman with Russia of the Minsk conference created in 1992 under the auspices of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to seek a solution to the conflict.

Mr. Aliyev told an OSCE summit in Lisbon last month he was willing to cooperate with the organisation but stressed that his country's territorial integrity must be respected.

France, which has an influential Armenian immigrant community, has good relations with both Armenia and Azerbaijan.

## Ethics panel gives justice tape of Gingrich call

WASHINGTON (R) — The House of Representatives Ethics Panel Monday turned over to the Justice Department a tape of an intercepted telephone call by House Speaker Newt Gingrich after receiving it from the senior Democrat on the committee.

A Florida couple active in Democratic politics Monday said they had delivered a tape of the controversial conference call between Mr. Gingrich and his top

lieutenants, one of whom was using a cellular phone, to Representative Jim McDermott of Washington.

A transcript of the tape was published in two newspapers two days later, prompting Republican calls for Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) criminal investigation into the source of the leak.

It is a federal crime to intentionally intercept telephone calls or disclose their content.

Confirmation that Mr. McDermott had received the tape, and the ethics committee's decision to turn it over to federal criminal investigators, turned the last stages of the ethics investigation of Mr. Gingrich into a major embarrassment for the Democrats.

"If in fact Congressman McDermott is responsible for the leak, he should resign from Congress immediately," said Representative John Boehner, chairman of the House Republican conference, who was a participant in the conference call.

In a statement, Mr. McDermott said: "I have communicated with the chair of the committee on standards of official conduct (Ethics Committee). It is therefore an issue before the committee. I have not made comments about the substance before the committee in the past. I will make no comment now."

But Theodore Van Der Meid, chief counsel for the Ethics Committee, sent Mr. McDermott a letter late Monday saying the panel had decided not to accept the materials from Mr. McDermott, turning them over instead to the Justice Department.

## Taleban, rivals continue Afghan talks under U.N. auspices

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Representatives of Afghanistan's Taleban militia and the alliance opposing it Tuesday resumed their talks here under the mediation of U.N. envoy Norbert Holl. U.N. sources said.

Three representatives from each side started the talks at the U.N. special mission's office here Monday, with Mr. Holl saying afterwards the meeting was a first step toward finding a solution to Afghanistan's bitter factional war.

There is no agenda for the talks, which were expected to cover all important issues, including the possibility of a ceasefire and proposals such as demilitarisation of Kabul and deployment of a neutral force.

After the first round Monday, Mr. Holl said he hoped the working group would become a regular forum and its future talks would lead to political level meetings at which decisions could be made.

The Taleban team at the talks is headed by Wakil Ahmad Mutawakkil, a close aide to the Islamic militia's chief, Mulla Mohammed Omar.

Ahmad Shah Masood, chief military commander of former Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani, is represented by his aide, engineer Mohammad Eshaq.

Northern Uzbek warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum, whose faction is allied with the ex-government against the Taleban, is represented by his Islamabad-based envoy General Mohammad Painda.

The Islamic militia, which controls two thirds of Afghan territory, seized the capital, Kabul, on Sept. 27, driving out the Rabbani government.

Fighting has since continued north of Kabul between the Taleban and the opposition alliance and clashes have also occurred in the northwest of the country.

## Tanzania denies expelling massacred Burundian refugees

DAR ES SALAAM (Agencies) — Tanzania Tuesday denied that the 122 refugees massacred by soldiers in Burundi last week had been expelled from camps in northwestern Tanzania.

"For all I know, we have never expelled Burundi refugees from our country," Tanzanian Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Emmanuel Mwambulukutu told AFP. "We don't have a policy of expelling refugees."

A U.N. spokesman said Monday that the refugees were killed by Burundian soldiers soon after Tanzanian authorities handed them over to Kobero military camp, near the northeastern Burundian town of Muyinga, Friday.

Hitoshi Mise, head of the Bujumbura office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said the refugees were expelled "because of their involvement in violent clashes in which eight people were killed" in a refugee camp in Tanzania.

Mr. Mwambulukutu said the number of Burundians entering Tanzania continued to rise and that the government had established two new camps to accommodate them.

"The only refugees we have returned home are those who came from Rwanda. This we did after being assured of the restoration of peace and stability in that country," he added.

Tanzanian authorities have given Burundians living outside refugee camps until Jan. 18 to return to them.

A government statement issued during the weekend also urged all Burundians "who are ready to go home" to do so, saying that the situation in Burundi was "not as threatening as reported in certain quarters."

The Burundian army chief of staff acknowledged Sunday that "several dozen" Burundian Hutu refugees returning from Tanzania were killed late Friday.

The army said seven soldiers, including a corporal, were arrested after what it termed a "scandalous" massacre.

## Major heads back to political battles

ISLAMABAD (R) — British Prime Minister John Major rushed back from Pakistan Tuesday after a week-long South Asian tour for a crucial parliamentary vote.

Mr. Major has been feted and praised on his tour of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, where he has been trying to boost British trade.

But Tuesday's day showed that the realities of British politics, with a general election now less than four months away, are firmly back at the top of the agenda.

Mr. Major, who has refused to detail the actual election date, said that despite the prospect of open parliamentary warfare from now on, he was prepared to hang on in power as long as possible.

"I am prepared to play it long, of course I am prepared to play it long," he told British journalists before flying out of Lahore an hour earlier than scheduled.

But he said that the Conservative Party was "ready for the election whenever it comes."

Mr. Major faces an uphill battle to win the election and secure the Conservative government's fifth term in office.

After 17 years of Conservative rule, many voters have been put off by the Conservatives following a string of sleaze scandals and are attracted to the opposition Labour Party by its move to the centre under new party leader Tony Blair.

Opinion polls put Mr. Major some 20 points behind Labour.

But the British prime minister said he believed voters would start swinging back to the Conservatives when they realised what was at stake. "When people begin to focus on the policy of the two parties, that is when they will ask the serious questions."

"They will say, 'are things going right now and would they change if we change government?'" said a defiant Major.

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The vote Tuesday night is on the finance bill, which puts the budget into effect.



## Clinton urges Senate to sign chemical arms pact

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton Monday urged the Senate to ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) by the end of April to avoid what he said would be damage to U.S. national security and the chemical industry.

"Early CWC ratification by the United States is extraordinarily important," he said in a White House statement. "The security of our soldiers and citizens is at stake, as is the economic well-being of our chemical industry."

His statement and a similar appeal from the State Department marked the fourth anniversary of the signing of the convention, whose ratification by the United States has been blocked by opponents in the Senate.

Now that more than 100 countries have ratified the pact, Clinton said, the United States must move quickly to join the club.

Clinton said the CWC has also been ratified by the United States, and he said the only two countries that have not signed it are North Korea and Cuba.

The convention bans the production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons.

The White House said the United States has been barred by the Senate from ratifying the pact since 1994.

The U.S. ratification would give the United States a punitive measure in the power struggle between the United States and the Soviet Union.

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## Major heads back to political battles

ISLAMABAD (R) — British Prime Minister John Major rushed back from Pakistan Tuesday after a week-long South Asian tour for a crucial parliamentary vote.

Mr. Major has been feted and praised on his tour of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, where he has been trying to boost British trade.

But Tuesday's dash showed that the realities of British politics, with a general election now less than four months away, are firmly back at the top of the agenda.

Mr. Major, who has refused to detail the actual election date, said that despite the prospect of open parliamentary warfare from now on, he was prepared to hang on in power as long as possible.

"I am prepared to play it long, of course I am prepared to play it long," he told British journalists before flying out of Lahore an hour earlier than scheduled.

But he said that the Conservative Party was "ready for the election whenever it comes."

Mr. Major faces an uphill battle to win the election and secure the Conservative government's fifth term in office.

After 17 years of Conservative rule, many voters have been put off by the Conservatives following a string of sleaze scandals and are attracted to the opposition Labour Party by its move to the centre under new party leader Tony Blair.

Opinion polls put Mr. Major some 20 points behind Labour.

But the British prime minister said he believed voters would start swinging back to the Conservatives when they realised what was at stake.

"When people begin to focus on the policy of the two parties, that is when they will ask the serious questions."

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The vote Tuesday night is on the finance bill, which puts the budget into effect.



A South Korean Roman Catholic priest, backed up by colleagues carrying candles, leans his head against a sceptre after being blocked from continuing a peaceful march by riot police in the Myeongdong district of Seoul on the eve of the biggest strike in the nation's history Monday. Almost two thousand protesters led by priests and nuns showed feeling was still running high over the law which threatens workers job security (Reuter photo)

## S. Korean labour protests turn violent; 40 injured

SEOUL (AFP) — At least 40 striking workers were injured in violent clashes Tuesday as thousands of union members staged demonstrations in South Korea's major cities to demand the repeal of a new labour law.

In the southern city of Chonju some 20 workers were taken to hospital after battling with tear-gas firing riot police who tried to stop a street march by 2,000 protesters, a union leader told AFP by telephone.

Another 20 were injured in battles with riot police in the Seoul satellite city of Songnam on the first day of a two-day nationwide general strike, Yonhap News Agency said.

In the southern city of Ulsan, 30,000 workers from the country's two rival labour groups held their first joint rally, but there were no reports of major violence.

"In the two-hour battle in Chonju, police used clubs and hurled rocks, and we fought back with rocks. One of the injured is in serious condition with head injuries after being hit by a tear gas shell," the union spokesman said.

In Seoul, where thousands of striking white-collar workers massed around Myeongdong Cathedral, shouting "down with (President) Kim Young-Sam," the rally was more peaceful.

Riot police sprayed small bursts of tear gas as the protesters tried to break through a wall of riot police around the cathedral, makeshift headquarters of the militant Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU).

The number of demonstrators in Seoul swelled to 5,000 by late afternoon, many of them journalists and bank workers. Some wore black ribbons carrying the slogan "the funeral of the ruling party."

Inside the cathedral grounds, the leaders of the KCTU and the more moderate Federation of Korean Trade Unions (FKTU) made a rare joint appearance to call for joint action against the law.

"We have to unite for a joint fight until the government repeals the law," FKTU leader Park In-Sang said, raising hands with KCTU leader Kwon Young-Kil.

The speech was followed by Hajime Kitamura of the Japanese Federation of Newspaper Unions, who drew loud cheers when he said Japanese journalists "support your struggle."

The protest climaxed the first day of a nationwide two-day walkout called by the government-recognised FKTU, which claims 1.2 million members.

Similar protests were reported from Suwon, Kwangju, Chonju, Incheon, Ansan, Puchon and Pusan. Kim Young-Sam's hometown.

The strikes were sparked by a new labour law rammed through parliament which makes it easier for management to lay off workers.

At a cathedral in Kwangju, a southern opposition stronghold, 3,000 Catholics staged a candlelight march led by Archbishop Yoon Kong-Hee, a leader in the bloody 1980 civil uprising that left more than 200 people dead.

Tuesday's strikes, which included the public sector, had a limited effect, but were to intensify Wednesday when the KCTU has called its members out.

## Britain: IRA escalating attacks

BELFAST (R) — Britain said Tuesday that a suspected IRA mortar attack on police armoured vehicles was a murder bid that marked another step on the road to all-out violence by the Irish guerrilla force.

Police officers escaped unhurt when a missile was fired at them in the heart of Catholic West Belfast Monday night by guerrillas who took over a house and lay in wait, British security sources said.

"I believe this is part of a deliberately planned escalation to full violence by the IRA (Irish Republican Army)," said Sir Patrick Mayhew, Britain's Northern Ireland secretary.

Declaring anger and disgust at the attack and the house-seizure, Sir Patrick said its purpose had been "to murder Ulster (Northern Ireland) people serving in the police force."

No group claimed the attack but it was widely regarded as the latest in an IRA upsurge which has provoked two revenge attacks by pro-British Protestant extremists, raising fears of a spiral of sectarian warfare.

Security sources said the missile missed the passing police vehicles. They said it appeared to be a home-made mortar of a type previously often used to lethal effect by IRA guerrillas.

In Londonderry city, police said they were investigating a petrol bomb attack on the home of a Catholic family in a Protestant area — the third such attack on Catholics in the district within a week.

Sir Patrick, speaking on BBC Radio, said the IRA was trying to goad their loyalist guerrilla foes to abandon a 27 month truce.

"I do believe that we should recognise that the IRA are longing to get the loyalists fully back to violence and I think we have to be very careful not to play their game for them," Sir Patrick said.

Moderate Catholic politician Joe Hendron also blamed the IRA for the attack and said it displayed contempt for all those involved in Northern Ireland peace attempts.

"This is my constituency. I deeply resent what the Provos (IRA) are doing here," said Mr. Hendron, of the Social Democratic and Labour Party.

On Monday the province's police chief said loyalists were responsible for attacks in December on two Catholics who want an end to British rule in Northern Ireland.

But Sir Patrick said he did not believe that the two-year-old loyalist truce was over, and that he would adopt a wait and see attitude on the continued presence of the Protestant guerrillas' political wings in current multi-party talks.

## Bulgarian Socialists offer olive branch

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria's embattled Socialist government held out an olive branch in the hope of calming a growing wave of unrest, but first signs were that the offer was too slight to satisfy their opponents.

Only some 8,000 protesters gathered in Sofia Monday, fewer than Sunday, but tens of thousands turned out in Bulgaria's second city of Plovdiv, home town of opposition politician and President-elect Petar Stoyanov.

In the port city of Varna, dockers staged a one-hour strike intended as a forerunner of a general strike threatened by the opposition unless elections are held soon. Protesters burned a red Communist flag.

The Promyana Trade Union said miners in the Rhodope Mountains were expected to join the dockers Tuesday.

"We are preparing a nationwide strike but we would not want to go ahead with it because the economy is in a bad state as it is and such a strike will finish it off," Dimitar Dimanov, deputy president of Promyana, told Reuters.

Annual inflation for 1996 was 310.8 per cent, and the Socialists' critics blame the party's powerful business allies for capital flight which has helped push the lev down to 670 to the dollar from 70 a year ago.

Quick formation of a new cabinet is vital to secure a new funding agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and avert default on Bulgaria's \$10 billion foreign debt.

Without it, an even steeper downward spiral looms for an economy in which incomes for many are worth only a few dollars a month.

"If there is no agreement...there is only one scenario: hyperinflation and default," said Krassen Stanchev, director of an independent Sofia think-tank, bemoaning the failure of the Sofia government to introduce the market reforms introduced in much of former Communist Eastern Europe.

"The Socialists would like a second mandate to do the opposite of what they have been doing for two years, but no one believes them now."

About 2,000 students marched to Eastern embassies in Sofia urging them not to support any new government of the Socialist Party, half way through its parliamentary term.

"We do not want to join the immigrants to your countries, we want a new life here and now," said a declaration delivered to the Italian, Austrian and U.S. embassies, referring to the many young Bulgarians who leave to seek a better life abroad.

Protesters' anger has been heightened by the police beatings of demonstrators to crush the 10-hour siege of parliament on Saturday, which put scores in hospital.

Marchers in Plovdiv added chants of "killers" to their taunts, aimed at the Socialists, of "mafia" and "red rubbish" — but handed carnations to police.

"We saw the blood of the Sofia children and we want all those who gave the orders to the police to be punished," UDF parliament deputy Muravev Radev said at the Plovdiv rally.

## Zairean rebels flushing out government troops in forest

GOMA, Zaire (AFP) — Hundreds of Zairean rebels have been combing dense forest near this eastern town in the hopes of flushing out Zairean troops and former Rwandan soldiers, local residents said.

The rebel raids, which began several days ago, are centred on Virunga Forest north of Goma, which was seized by opponents of President Mobutu Sese Seko some two months ago.

The mostly Tutsi rebels have also burnt down part of the former refugee camp of Tongo, some 60 kilometres north of Goma and located in the forest, which was home to 200,000 refugees from the 1994 Rwanda genocide until the rebels seized a swathe of eastern Zaire late last year.

The Tutsi rebel onslaught sent hundreds of thousands of mainly Hutu refugees on the roads and prompted some of the ex-Hutu soldiers from the former Rwandan army, who were also sheltered in the camps, to take to the mountains and forests.

Some of the former Rwandan Hutu soldiers have been seeking refuge in the now empty refugee camps.

There were minor clashes last weekend between Zairean troops and former Rwandan soldiers on the one hand, and Tutsi rebels in eastern Zaire.

Rebel leader Laurent-Desire Kabila said Sunday that the clashes occurred after government troops infiltrated rebel-held North and South Kivu provinces.

Meanwhile, the French medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said Tuesday more than 20 Rwandan refugees are dying daily in one camp in eastern Zaire and reporting "catastrophic" conditions in the region.

Brigitte Vasset, a physician who has just returned from the region, said the lack of concerned international action in the region was "taking hostage" the refugees there.

"Those who are hit by delays... and the lack of commitments from the international community are not the militia chiefs, but the civilian populations who are being taken hostage again."

"While their situation becomes increasingly worse, there is no obvious solution in sight."

More than half of those dying in the Tingi Tingi Camp are children under five, she said. "100,000 Rwandan refugees are in a catastrophic situation in the Tingi Tingi and Amissi camps near Lubutu," she said.

The refugees began arriving six weeks ago after walking for weeks from other camps, including ones at Kivu and Bukavu. "Due to fatigue and lack of food, we are seeing a very rapid worsening of their state of health," she said.

"Since the start of the month the mortality rate has gone up at an alarming rate. Between Oct. 18 and Jan. 11, 380 people died in the Tingi Tingi Camp."

According to U.N. figures there are 120,000 refugees in the Tingi Tingi Camp and 40,000 at Amissi.

"Last week more than 20 people were dying every day. More than half of the deaths were (children) under five, many of them died of malnutrition," she said adding that adults were dying mostly from malnutrition or malaria.

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## Jordan Times

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MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:  
GEORGE S. HAWATMEN

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### 'Guarantees' to make peace

THE IMMEDIATE catalyst for the formation of the compromise formula that His Majesty King Hussein has successfully brokered for Israel's redeployments in Hebron and elsewhere in the Palestinian territories is a letter of guarantee by the U.S. This letter purports to ensure Israel's fulfilment of the new deadlines for the completion of its withdrawals from all the Palestinian areas prescribed in the agreement by mid-1998. There is now in the making another complementary letter of guarantee from the European Union alongside the U.S.'s.

The exact wording of the letters of guarantee, though, appears to be more difficult to articulate than originally thought. Over and above the legal and political status of the U.S. and EU guarantees, Israel is demanding similar ones for the implementation of certain commitments by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) which pertain, inter alia, to disarming anti-Israeli militants in the self-rule areas, notably the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), the extradition of Palestinians accused of terrorist acts against the Jewish state and the amendment of the Palestinian Charter to the satisfaction of the Likud-led government.

As some of these demands by Israel were not spelled out in the Oslo accords, their introduction now raises new concerns for the PNA especially with regard to extraditing Palestinian nationals to stand trial in Israel. But what is more worrisome is the legal and political import of the assurances that are being offered.

For starters, it appears that the wording of the guarantees will be formed in such a way as to make them conditional on a set of performances by both Israel and the PNA. In other words, Israel is guaranteed to implement certain acts if the PNA executes another set of acts. The legal picture that emerges from such worded instruments of guarantee is one that suggests not an absolute commitment by Israel to complete its redeployments by a certain date but rather a conditional undertaking contingent on the performance of several acts by the Palestinian side. This is one negative feature of the envisaged pact. Another troubling aspect is the value of these pledges and how they may be translated or exchanged for actual implementation. Assume, for example, that there is a disagreement between the two sides on what they are supposed to do for each other, or if a controversy arises between them over whether the PNA has in fact implemented what it has undertaken to execute. Under such a scenario, the U.S. and EU guarantees would be suspended pending the resolution of these difficulties. With this in mind, it is hardly surprising that the two sides are taking their time to adopt a mutually agreed upon text which would meet the needs of both sides. Whatever the case may be, however, there is no escape from the conclusion that the "guarantees" in question are not absolute. Rather they are conditional and as such do not qualify as guarantees in the full sense of the word.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Rai Tuesday described King Hussein's intervention in the deadlocked peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians as an act that broke the ice and paved the ground for the continuation of the negotiation process. As we await for the outcome of this intervention by the King, we ought to remember and note that the Monarch's moves represent a dynamic Jordanian policy that comes in the wake of a Jordanian-Egyptian summit in Aswan dedicated to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, said Mahmoud Rimawi. The King, backed by Egypt, decided to step in when everything seemed to be lost and when the U.S. envoy Dennis Ross was about to leave the area in despair, he noted. The writer said it is clear then that a Jordanian-Egyptian move at the right moment was of paramount importance to salvage the peace process on the Israeli-Palestinian track and one that could repeat itself in the future Israeli-Syrian negotiations, as well as on the Israeli-Lebanese track. In the writer's view, the King's intervention was dedicated entirely to ensuring that the peace process remains alive and to preventing deterioration of the situation that would have its very bad consequences on the whole Middle East region.

A WRITER for Al Dustour drew attention to the current Zionist campaign to blackmail Switzerland into paying the Jewish state huge sums of money as compensation for Bern's role in accepting to keep Jewish people's funds seized by the Nazis during World War II. Hayat Attieh said that the Zionists had exercised a similar blackmail policy on Germany after the war, forcing its successive governments to pay Israel huge sums of money in compensation for the alleged Nazi atrocities committed against the Jews during and before the war. The writer said that the world Zionism, backed by the United States, had tried to blackmail France in the same manner, by claiming that the French, living under the rule of a German-appointed government in southern France, were responsible for the persecution of Jews. But she said that the French leaders and people rejected these claims and refused to succumb to the world Zionism's pressures. Now it is the turn of Switzerland which has come under open pressure from the world Zionists demanding that Bern pass special laws offering compensation to the so-called victims of the Holocaust. The writer said it remains to be seen if Switzerland will respond to the Zionists' desires and respond to their false claims.

### Washington Watch

## White House agenda — bipartisan approach or exacting retributions?

By Dr. James Zogby

LAST WEEK, congressman Newt Gingrich (Republican from Georgia) was voted speaker of the House of Representatives, the most powerful position in the U.S. Congress. His reelection to this post makes him the first Republican to serve consecutive terms as speaker in almost 70 years.

Next week, Bill Clinton will be inaugurated and begin his second term as president of the United States. In doing so, he becomes the first Democrat in over 50 years to win consecutive elections for president.

Both represent historic and significant personal accomplishments and yet both have been tarnished by scandal. Coupled with the formal celebrations and ceremonies that traditionally accompany the inauguration of a president and the swearing in of the new Congress, the coming weeks will also witness several more sombre events.

The Supreme Court will have arguments as to whether or not a sitting president can be tried on allegations of sexual harassment. The Congressional Ethics Committee will release its report on charges against the speaker and recommendations as to how the Congress ought to act on those charges.

The Congress will then hold hearings on the speaker's behaviour, then the full Congress will debate the charges against the speaker, and finally, a vote will be taken to determine whether or not to punish the speaker.

The Senate will begin hearings on the campaign finance irregularities that have been reported to have been carried out by the president's reelection campaign

and the Democratic National Committee (DNC). And sometime soon it is expected that indictments will be forthcoming from the Independent Council charged with investigating the Whitewater issue and a series of other scandals that plagued the first term of the Clinton administration.

So instead of joy there are clouds hanging over both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue, the historic street that runs through the heart of Washington connecting the White House with Capitol Hill, the seat of the Congress.

Not only will these developments be traumatic for the nation, they also represent personal tragedy for two great leaders.

As the personal biographies of both Bill Clinton and Newt Gingrich demonstrate, each has spent a lifetime in the effort to achieve national leadership. Despite deep ideological differences, both Clinton and Gingrich share a great deal in common. Both have risen from modest means, both have endured personal hardship and bitter political defeat. And yet both were driven by an intellectual vision and a political will to succeed — and both did in fact succeed.

It is therefore painful to see their crowning moments mired in controversy.

It is ironic that while there are differences in some of the problems plaguing each of these leaders, campaign finance issues are central to their most serious and recent difficulties. This is ironic because, it was just a few years ago that both Clinton and Gingrich met in New Hampshire, shook hands and pledged to work together to achieve real campaign

finance reform.

That reform did not come. The 1996 presidential and congressional elections were the costliest in history. Well over \$1.5 billion was spent, with \$660 million going to Senate and congressional races. The rest was spent by the two presidential campaigns, the two parties, and major issue groups who spent millions to influence the election.

Gingrich set a record raising over \$6.3 million in winning his congressional race — that is the most ever spent on a congressional seat. The Democratic Party raised over \$250 million and the Republican Party over \$400 million — also records for money raised and spent by the two parties.

Gingrich has been cited for offences by the House Ethics Committee on seven occasions. He was also formally rebuked by the committee in 1995 for "conspiring to exploit his office for personal gain," when he agreed to receive a \$4.5 million advance for a book he was preparing to write.

While the formal report by the Congress is not yet out, it appears that this time Gingrich has been charged with using moneys from a non-profit tax exempt group he founded for political purposes. This would be a violation of tax laws. At the same time Gingrich will be charged with not telling the truth about these activities in his testimony to Congress.

The most recent charges facing the White House and the DNC that will be the subject of hearings involve clearly illegal contributions received (though some have since been refunded) by the DNC and the role that the president and vice president

played in indirectly soliciting those funds.

It appears that the president and vice president held scores of dinners and private meetings with questionable figures solely in order to raise funds. In some cases, these individuals were not U.S. citizens. Since they could not contribute, contributions made by their business subsidiaries or associates in the U.S. shortly after the meetings have raised questions.

And the practice of inviting large donors to spend a night as a guest in the White House has been described by both Republicans and Democrats alike as tantamount to renting out the White House to political contributors.

It is obvious that the campaign finance system is out of control and that there have been serious abuses by both parties (there has not yet been full scrutiny of the \$400 million raised by the RNC). And it is equally obvious that when operating in a broken system, when individuals are driven to win, though motivated by the best of political intentions, there will be infractions.

Republicans have been in the minority of Congress for decades, a situation Gingrich was determined to end.

His infraction of the law and campaign finance requirements were done in an effort to change the political discourse in the U.S., to educate the public about Republican ideals, and to build a grassroots base that would elect Republicans to Congress.

His plan worked. Republicans won — but the infractions have tarnished his victory.

Similarly, Bill Clinton ended a twelve-year-long Democratic exclusion from the White House. Despite a tremendous defeat in the 1994 congressional elections, Clinton and his party were determined to fight harder and take the White House in 1996. They knew they would be outspent by Republicans — but they were determined to close the gap. In fact, it was their determination coupled with lack of vigilance that has contributed to turning a victory into a nightmare of embarrassing revelations of illegal contributions.

There is an additional degree of irony in these developments. On the political level it appears that there may be, for the first time in many years, a real sense of bi-partisanship on several key issues facing the country. Both Republican and Democrats appear to agree that it is necessary to avoid partisan division on issues like balancing the budget and achieving tax cuts for middle class Americans. There has also been renewed discussion of working towards a bipartisan approach to real campaign finance reform.

Will this political desire to achieve bipartisan results withstand the pressures that will derive from the partisan fights that will soon engulf the speaker and the president? What will set the agenda and determine the priorities of Republicans and Democrats during the next year — the need to cooperate to make progress in resolving issues like the budget and campaign reform, or the desire to exact retribution and seek advantage from each others' problems?

## In Cyprus, 'the war of words could all too easily become a shooting war'

By G. H. Jansen

NICOSIA — How real, that is how dangerous, is "the missile crisis in the Eastern Mediterranean" which for the past ten days has taken the international community by storm?

It began when the government of the Republic of Cyprus formally announced that it had signed a contract with Russia to buy an S-300 missile system in order to strengthen its air defences against possible attacks by Turkey. Such defences have been conspicuous by their total absence even though the northern one-third of this island has been under Turkish occupation, with 35,000 troops, backed up by 450 tanks, stationed there since 1974.

Once these missiles are deployed in the mountains above an airbase being built near the port of Paphos, on the southeast coast, Turkey's domination of the airspace over and around Cyprus will be under serious challenge. The S-300 missile has a range of 150 kilometres, reaching into mainland Turkish airspace and can hit planes as they take off from a major airbase at Adana on the coast. Furthermore, the S-300 is said to be more sophisticated than an American missile system with which the U.S. has equipped Turkey.

Hence, no sooner was the S-300 deal announced than Turkey stated categorically that the deployment of the system was unacceptable and that it would have to be removed or destroyed. This was made especially clear by Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller who declared that if it was necessary to hit the S-300 sites they would "be hit." Turkish Defence Minister Turgut Tayan made a further threat, that Turkey would prevent the missiles from reaching Cyprus by imposing a blockade on the island. So it was a comprehensive Turkish strategy against

the republic and therefore produced a "real" and dangerous crisis.

And all the more so because Cyprus is no longer on its own since, according to a recently formulated "Defence Dogma" or doctrine, mainland Greece is committed to go to war with Turkey if Ankara makes any offensive move against Cyprus. This was a foolish and dangerous policy move by both Cyprus and Greece and encourages Ankara to adopt an aggressive stance against Cyprus because of the huge military advantage that Turkey enjoys vis-à-vis this island as well as with respect to Greece. The Greek Cypriot population of the island is only 600,000 while Greece has a population of 10 million against Turkey's 60 million: Turkey has half a million men in its armed forces, compared to the combined strength of Greece and Cyprus which is 180,000 men. Turkey has 21 major warships plus 44 others, compared to 13 for Greece, and Turkey has 440 combat aircraft, compared to 350 for Greece.

The main theatres of combat in any Græco-Turkish war could be the Aegean in and around Cyprus where the Turks would dominate any ground war with their 35,000 troops taking the offensive against the 10,000-strong Greek Cypriot National Guard, led by mainland Greek officers. However, the mainland Greeks would soon have the advantage of two bases on land, once these are completed — an airbase protected by the missiles in Paphos, in the west, and a naval base at Zigi, on the south coast. These installations do not fundamentally alter the military status quo on Cyprus but change the overall strategic balance between the two Balkan powers. For Greece's defence installations in Cyprus will give Athens a "second front" if there were hostilities with Turkey in the Aegean where

the two powers nearly came to blows just a year ago over possession of a string of islands off the Turkish coast.

The Greeks and Greek Cypriots are certain that Turkey already has a war plan ready to seize the islands in the Aegean stretching between Turkey and Greece. Whatever the actual and final result of combat in the Aegean area may be, the Greek military position, reinforced by missiles on Cyprus, means that Turkey is no longer the predominant Mediterranean military power because Cyprus could become Greece's aircraft carrier anchored 60 kilometres off the southern Turkish coast.

The international community, notably the U.S. and the U.K., promptly intervened in the missile crisis by roundly condemning the introduction of the new weapons. At the same time, the U.S. officially and just as roundly condemned Turkey's threats against Cyprus as being completely "out of bounds" in international behaviour. This, combined with the Western powers' off-repeated opinion that the present status quo of a divided Cyprus is not acceptable because it is too unstable, led Turkey to become more verbally bellicose.

Turkey wants to maintain the status quo since control of northern Cyprus brings the whole island within its security sphere. Hence, the exaggerated reaction to the deployment of the Russian missiles which are a defensive weapon, a deployment which does not really alter the military balance on Cyprus or threaten the Turkish Cypriots who are under Ankara's protection.

The Turks would like to use the missile crisis to torpedo the "big push" being undertaken by the Western powers and the U.N. in 1997 to settle the 30-year-old Cyprus problem by establishing a bizonal, bicommunal federal republic, in accordance with a plan put

forward by the U.N. However, a key element in the crisis is the timing of the deployment of the missiles which could be the trigger that would set off hostilities. But that date, so far, is quite uncertain because the timeframe that has been given varies from six to sixteen months. This should give the Western powers time to defuse the crisis and continue with their "big push" to settle the problem once and for all. Which is what they are trying to do right now. Two days ago, Carey Cavanaugh, a U.S.

mediator touring the interested capitals, received assurances from Cyprus President Glafcos Clerides that the republic would not bring "a single component" part of the missiles onto the island for 16 months. And as a result, Cavanaugh announced that the tension should be defused. Nevertheless, until a settlement is reached, the present "war of words" could all too easily become a shooting war because Cyprus is one of the most heavily armed territories in the world.

### LETTERS

#### Religion is no ritual only

To the Editor:

YOUR EDITORIAL "Message of Ramadan" (Jordan Times, Jan. 11, 1997) deserves to be commended as, nowadays, many people tend to treat religion as a mere ritual and not as a practice of moral values in their daily lives and in relation with other human beings, as you suggest, which is what religion is all about.

When I pass by a mosque on Fridays and see it overflowing with worshippers, I wonder whether they contemplate ways of bettering themselves and the rest of the mankind as well. For practising religion is also striving to be good and honest, trying to make things right, fighting the wrongs that all the society.

Corruption and hypocrisy, for example, are two things that we can and should get rid of. To my mind come the 360,000 bouncing cheques that were issued in one year only, according to statistics I read in Al Aswaq daily; this is fraud and one example of dishonesty, alien to our religion and that we should combat.

Bishara Bazzoun,  
Amman.

#### For the record

To the Editor:

IN HIS letter "Investment in Aqaba needed" (Jordan Times, Jan. 12, 1997), Marwan Atalla refers to a Finnish journalist who had previously written the letter "Why is Aqaba empty?" as a he. Just for the record, I would like to mention that Sirka Irtavuora is a woman.

Shadi Haddadin,  
Amman.

### IT OCCURRED TO ME ...

#### To bin or not to bin?

By Ali Kassay

TWO DAYS ago I happened to be in Sweifieh, where my eye fell upon a poster on the wall, which was aesthetically unappealing, but it bore a message worthy of attention. It showed a hand throwing a crumpled sheet of paper into a refuse bin, beneath the inscription: "For the sake of Jordan, keep it tidy!" This message was particularly pertinent in an area replete with numerous shops and snack bars that attract amblers and equip them with a considerable amount of litter with which to decorate the pavements.

I was filled with civic pride. My impulse was to rush to the nearest rubbish bin to throw something in it, in order to feel virtuous. Unfortunately, I was prevented from fulfilling this civic duty by an important factor. You see, there was not a single rubbish bin anywhere in sight.

I looked up and down the street. It was certainly uncontaminated by rubbish bins, which was perhaps the only form of contamination that this lovely area was missing. Undeterred, I jumped into my car and drove around in search of a receptacle for my would be rubbish. The nearest one I found was just over a kilometre away.

At first I was puzzled. Would it make sense for the Greater Amman Municipality to enjoin us to keep our fair capital clean, and then fail to provide us with the means to do so? Could officials be behaving in an absurd manner, contributing with these posters to the disfigurement of the city in the name of cleaning it up? Such reflections, however, were the work of the devil; for in no time the fog of mystery was dispelled and I could see clearly the wisdom of our officialdom. This poster had deep significance that escaped me at first glance.

You see, affixing such posters was the first step of a complex and far-sighted project to improve Jordan's economy. Having attracted attention to the problem of littering, the second step would probably be the recruitment of a large array of municipal enforcement officers that would work to enforce the objectives of the campaign. One can almost see them, happy at last to be out of the ranks of the unemployed, wearing special uniforms and standing at every street corner looking vigilantly at any girl that passes by. Till then people would continue to litter, for lack of bins in which to throw the wrapping of their shawarma sandwich.

Finally, and by a stroke of genius, the municipality would impose a heavy fine on anyone caught littering, unless he happens to belong to the same tribe as a high official, or that of the anti-littering officer that catches him. This way, with one fell swoop, the municipality would achieve the dual objective of fighting unemployment and generating revenue in the process.

Is this not better and more cost effective than disfiguring Amman with rubbish bins that would be costly to install and maintain?

Handwritten signature: *Ali Kassay*



## Bus plunges into Nile; at least 39 said killed

CAIRO (Agencies) — A crowded public bus smashed through a metal fence and plunged off a bridge into the muddy waters of the Nile Tuesday, killing at least 39 people and injuring 26.

Water turned red from blood dripped from the bus as rescue workers used a crane to haul the upside down vehicle from a shallow part of the river near the shore.

Cairo police chief Mohammad Abdul Latif said the driver was among those killed when the bus plunged off the Rod Al Farag bridge in northern Cairo.

Sayed Mahrus, the deputy director of the Nasser Institute said "So far we have 33 dead and 31 injured, three of whom are in serious condition."

Officials at a second hospital, the Sahel, said they had received the bodies of five people and that six others were brought in with injuries.

The exact number of passengers was not known.

A Cairo public transportation official told reporters that "the driver suffered a heart attack and vomited before slumping over the steering wheel as he crossed the Rod Al Farag bridge."

Survivors of the accident said the driver lost control as he swerved onto the bridge which links two impoverished Cairo neighbourhoods.

"The driver drove onto the bridge very fast and suddenly lost control, hurling the vehicle against cement blocks dividing the bridge into two lanes," Khaled Ahmad Mohammad, an 18-year-old Cairo university student, said from his hospital bed at the Nasser Institute.

He said the bus landed in the opposite lane and fell over a metal barrier into the Nile.

"I was in a micro-bus behind the bus which crashed," said Arafat Abdul Rahman. "All of a sudden the bus veered and crossed the divider in the middle of the bridge and went into the other lane, narrowly missing an oncoming taxi. Then it went over."

The red-and-white bus landed upside down in the mud with only its wheels visible above the water.

Ragab Ibrahim Mohammad, 37, a building painter, said "the passengers screamed when the bus driver lost control."

"I saw people disappear in the mud," he told said from his hospital bed. "I don't know if they have been saved."

"The bridge's maintenance workers were the first to come to our rescue," he added. Hisham Mohammad Shafai, a 27-year-old labourer, said, "I was saying my last prayers. My face was shoved into the mud. I could hardly breathe."

"I had the impression that there were people above and below (me). And I heard people smashing the windows of the bus."

Rescue workers used inflatable dinghies and other boats to try to remove passengers trapped inside the vehicle and a fleet of ambulances transported the injured to hospitals.

Two cranes were later used to extract the bus from the mud and place it back on the bridge, which was closed to traffic during the rescue efforts.

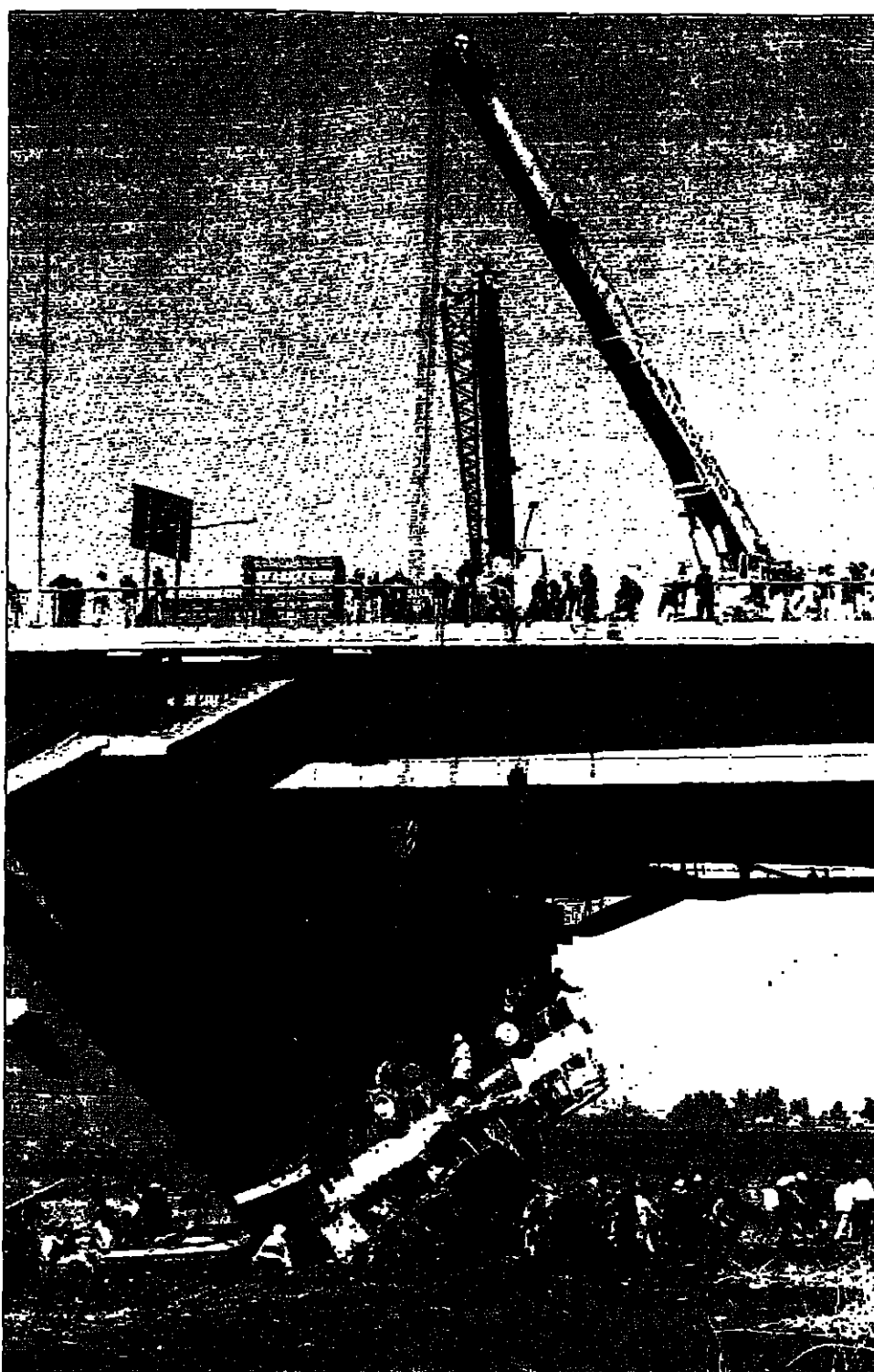
Thousands of onlookers stood on the bridge as rescue workers searched the muddy waters for more bodies and pulled clothes and bags belonging to passengers from the water.

"If the rescue operation was not so quick, those rescued alive would have been dead," Prime Minister Kamal Al Ganzoury told reporters at the scene.

The bus landed near the shore and was almost buried in the mud, Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfi said. He said the sharp drop from the bridge and the mud which oozed into the overcrowded bus caused the high number of casualties.

Public buses are an inexpensive and popular means of transportation for many people in Cairo. Buses are usually overcrowded, with people standing in the aisles and some hanging out of the open doors.

Residents say that drivers on the bridge in Rod Al Farag often make shortcuts across parts of its exit and entrance ramps to escape traffic, sometimes veering briefly into oncoming cars.



A huge construction crane lifts the remains of a bus from under a Cairo bridge after the vehicle flipped over on Tuesday. At least 38 people were killed (Reuters photo)

## Police press in as Lima crisis marks 5 weeks

LIMA (AFP) — Security around the Japanese embassy residence was visibly tighter Tuesday with no end as yet in sight for the 74 hostages held by leftist rebels for more than four weeks.

An army helicopter overflew the residence around mid-morning as police closed access to at least one additional street after doing a census of the neighbourhood with a possible view towards moving the press away.

Before dawn, there were small blasts from what sounded like an air gun outside the embassy. But there was no confirmation of any gunfire inside the residence or by police outside. A leftist lawmaker, Javier Diaz Canseco, himself a former hostage, called Tuesday for the creation of a commission that included Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) founder Victor Polay to negotiate an end to the crisis.

He also urged President Alberto Fujimori to move forward with the creation of a high-level guarantors commission. The government has proposed the panel but the 15-strong rebel command inside the embassy residence has shown no interest.

The prolonged international hostage standoff provided the backdrop for a landmark visit here by Ecuador's President Abdala Bucaram, the first by an Ecuadorian head of state. Peru and Ecuador fought a brief border war in 1995, the third in 60 years.

Mr. Fujimori and Mr.

Bucaram appeared to get along famously Monday, and took off on Tuesday for Ayacucho and Cuzco for what is expected to be a nine-hour tour of Peru's interior. A press conference was set for later Tuesday.

In a speech to congress late Monday, Mr. Bucaram greeted Peru's Foreign Minister Francisco Tudela, one of the hostages held since Dec. 17.

Mr. Fujimori had been using Mr. Bucaram's visit to show that his government was operating normally, even though his agriculture minister and younger brother are also among the hostages who have seen Christmas and New Year's holidays come and go in captivity.

Shortly after Mr. Bucaram arrived Monday, Tupac Amaru rebels opened fire several times with automatic weapons.

Tupac Amaru leader Cerpa Carlini told AFP and a British television network that they were warning shots fired because police violated an agreement to stay at least 100 metres from the residence.

If Ecuador and Peru appeared to be enjoying their best relations in years, all signs pointed to worsening relations between Peru's government and the Marxist-Leninist rebels.

The two sides had been expected to meet face to face for just the second time over the weekend, but that was scrapped when rebels refused to meet unless the government brought a proposal on freeing Tupac Amaru rebels.

## Milosevic gives in after eight weeks of Serbian protests

BELGRADE (AFP) — Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic — one of the last communist-style rulers — caved in Tuesday after eight weeks of massive daily opposition-led protests and handed control of Belgrade and another key town to his opponents.

Acting for the embattled president, the government-controlled Belgrade electoral commission issued a ruling that the opposition had won the most seats in the Belgrade city council in November elections.

The commission in the southern town of Nis, Serbia's second largest town, also handed victory to the opponents of the Milosevic regime. Both rulings were seen paving the way for an end to the ruling party's monopoly on power here and gave the opposition control of seven major towns.

The ruling also gives the opposition a slice of control over the state-run media, controlled out of Belgrade — home to two million people, one-fifth of the Serbian population. Hundreds of thousands of Serbians have taken to the streets daily since the Nov. 17 elections to press the rigidly controlled government of Milosevic to recognise that the together coalition opposition — a loose alliance of nationalist and democratic forces — had triumphed in 14 towns and cities in the polls.

However, the loss of Belgrade and other towns — the first non-communist victory in Serbia's capital since 1945 — was a blow which the Serbian leader was for eight weeks unwilling to admit.

The ruling was announced to journalists by the election commission president, Radomir Lazarevic, who told reporters that together had won 60 of the 110 seats in the Belgrade city council, against 23 seats for the nationalists, with the remainder split between smaller parties or undecided.

Welcoming the ruling, one of the key opposition leaders, the fiery nationalist Vuk Draskovic, said: "If it's true,

then it is the first step of the Serbian government towards sanity."

"We must be very careful," he said saying the reaction from the socialists and courts would show if "Slobodan Milosevic (has) decided to accept," the opposition wins.

Demonstrations would continue until all opposition wins were acknowledged, he said, in a nod towards the seven results not yet acknowledged.

"We will continue with our peaceful demonstrations until Mr. Milosevic and his regime reinstate all the election results," he said.

"If this happens, we will stop demonstrations and start democratic dialogue," he added.

Mr. Draskovic's allies are Zoran Djindjic, another politician who has flirted with extreme nationalism, and Vesna Pesic, a more moderate liberal democrat.

The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) ruled last month that the opposition had won Belgrade and other cities. Washington and a host of European countries demanded Mr. Milosevic recognise his defeat.

In the largest demonstration so far, well over 300,000 protesters paraded through Belgrade overnight, Monday — the Serb Orthodox New Year.

Despite the deployment of riot police, and the imposition of a ban on opposition marches on Dec. 25, the protests have continued, inventively including marches, mass traffic-jams, students giving poetry readings and philosophy lessons to the police and a riotous performance of whistle-blowing on the streets of the capital every evening.

While never managing to spark similar protests in the countryside — much more dependent for its information on the state-run media — the opposition and student leaderships, which also organised separate protests, managed to bring people onto the streets not just in Belgrade but also in Nis and other towns.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Crown Prince opens wind-energy project today

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday inaugurates the Hofa electricity generating station using wind energy — a joint project of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, the National Electricity Company and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS). RSS President Hani Mulki said that the project came into existence during a visit of the Crown Prince to Jordan in 1992 where he discussed the prospects of building an electric station using wind energy based on the scientific and technical programme signed between the two countries. Dr. Mulki added that it was the first fruit of cooperation between the two countries through the German Ministry of International Cooperation. This implies that Jordan has been entitled for cooperation in the field of research and exchange of expertise with Germany.

### Kabariti, Luxembourg premier hold talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti on Tuesday received Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Luxembourg Jacques Boss and discussed with him issues related to the Middle East peace process. In a statement following the meeting, Mr. Boss said his talks with Mr. Kabariti covered relations between Jordan and the European Commission, and between Europe and the Mediterranean countries. He noted that a European-Jordanian meeting will be held in April, adding that a Jordanian European partnership will be signed within the next few months. The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Khalid Madadha.

### Libya invites back stranded Palestinians

TUNIS (R) — Libya has called on Palestinians stranded for more than a year at a desert camp on the Egypt-Libya border to return to Libya, the official Libyan news agency JANA reported on Tuesday. "The basic popular congresses invite the brother Palestinians on hunger strike at the Libyan-Egyptian border... to return inside the Arab Libyan lands," JANA, monitored in Tunis, quoted a source at the Libyan general people's congress as saying. The congress is the decision-making body in Libya under Muammar Qadhafi's leadership. Hundreds of Palestinians have been stranded at the camp since September 1995 when Colonel Qadhafi told thousands of Palestinians to go home.

### Bomb scare at the State Department

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The local Washington bomb squad was dispatched to the State Department Tuesday to investigate a suspicious package that in the end proved harmless, a spokesman said. A State Department employee alerted security after spotting the package in a closet on the second floor of the building, State Department spokesman Nichols Burns said. "It turned out to be a package of 1996 NATO calendars," Mr. Burns said. The employee considered the package suspicious because of the way it was wrapped, he added. The bomb scare followed a string of letter-bombs sent to the bureaus of the Arabic language newspaper Al-Hayat in Washington on Jan. 2 and to the newspaper's U.N. office on Monday.

### Ministers head for Baghdad today

(Continued from page 1) of the oil bill under the protocol. Local reports said the Iraqi government was also seeking to increase the amount covered under the trade protocol to reflect the difference resulting from the increase in oil price. It is demanding. Mr. Aziz, who was in France on Tuesday, is expected in Amman on Saturday on his way home. "It is quite likely that His Majesty the King would meet Mr. Aziz," said one source. When Mr. Aziz was here this week the King was preoccupied with an effort to narrow the Palestinian-Israeli differences in their negotiations and hence the Monarch did not receive the Iraqi minister, officials said.

## U.S.: Few minor details remain

(Continued from page 1)

undefined "specified military sites."

Palestinians interpret this to mean about 90 per cent of West Bank territory, although no figure is mentioned in the Oslo document.

Mr. Netanyahu declined to predict when the Hebron accord would be concluded. "I find it necessary to say now, on the possible eve of an agreement, that it is still too early to say if it will be completed," Mr. Netanyahu said. "We need patience. And we have patience."

"I will sign an agreement when I am convinced that our goals have been reached and I am convinced that we will achieve our goals," he added.

Mr. Netanyahu appeared meanwhile to have secured cabinet support for the emerging agreement after the leader of the small Third Way party, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, said it would back the accord.

Mr. Kahalani brought to 11 the number of cabinet members who have said they will vote for the agreement. Mr. Netanyahu has promised to get at least half of his 17 min-

isters to support the accord.

Defence Minister Mordechai meanwhile appealed to Jewish settlers in the Palestinian territories to stay calm and not to go ahead with threatened protests against a Hebron accord. "The settlers are the flesh of our flesh and they will be committing an error if they change the way they have been acting up until now," he told Israeli army radio during a tour of the Israeli-occupied zone in South Lebanon.

"The settlers would do better to take care of the existing settlements in (the West Bank) and the Gaza Strip and not to launch into other actions," Mr. Mordechai said.

Jewish settlers and extreme right-wing militants have launched a campaign against Mr. Netanyahu, whom they helped to power in May elections, saying that withdrawal from Hebron was a betrayal of their ideas for a "greater Israel."

They have threatened to hold demonstrations and hunger strikes to protest at a Hebron accord.

Mr. Mordechai called on Arab countries, particularly Egypt, "to encourage the Palestinians to sign, because any delay can only do a disservice to the two parties."

The minister also said that he has been invited next month to visit Jordan.

## Crown Prince stresses importance of JRV development

(Continued from page 1)

on the ground is still wide and we have to work hard to narrow this gap," said Mr. Meridor, who stressed the importance of Jordanian-Israeli economic cooperation.

The prime minister reviewed the peace process and economic and trade relations with Mr. Meridor, stressing that these should be developed in such a manner that would ensure the realisation of the peace process and the development of the whole region.

Mr. Kabariti underlined the importance of the implementation of all provisions in the Palestinian-Israeli accords so that the peace process could proceed and achieve its objectives.

Mr. Meridor voiced Israel's appreciation of His Majesty King Hussein's efforts over the past two days to bring the Palestinian and Israeli views closer, and expressed hope that the two sides will arrive at positive results soon.

Mr. Meridor was later received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Minister of Water and Irrigation Samir Qawar.

The Crown Prince's meeting with Mr. Meridor focused

on creating practical steps as well as practical agenda, in launching the proposed projects aiming at the development of the Jordan Rift Valley.

The Crown Prince expressed hope that "in the future projects would go beyond the national to the transnational level, with the full participation of the private sector."

Mr. Meridor reaffirmed his country's commitment to the concept of Jordan Rift Valley development, and agreed with the Crown Prince that practical steps ought to be implemented with urgency. The meeting was attended by the Israeli ambassador to Jordan, Shimon Shamir.

The Crown Prince said that with the political aspect of the peace process back on track there is a need to also move on with human and economic dimensions.

Later in the day, as a gesture of Jordan's seriousness and commitment towards developing the Jordan Rift Valley, the Crown Prince inaugurated the expansion project of the Kafren Dam.

The dam was originally built in 1966 with a capacity to hold up to 4.5 million cubic metres of water.

It will now be able to hold about eight million cubic metres.

## Prince meets U.S. lawmakers

(Continued from page 1)

over the Israeli redeployment in the Hebron area, adding that the King enjoys world's respect and appreciation as a remarkable statesman.

Speaking to reporters after meeting Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, Mr. Callahan said:

"We are optimistic that Jordan and the United States will retain their friendship and we hope that through this friendship we can support Jordan's economic stability and provide the Kingdom with military aid and weapons required for the Kingdom's defence."

Mr. Callahan said he and his delegation were happy to have met King Hussein and the prime minister with whom they held discussions on Jordan's needs and how the U.S. can help it meet these needs.

"We are happy I and my delegation are happy to be here in Jordan, we are very

happy to have the opportunity to dine with His Majesty the King and to have the opportunity to meet with him and have an interesting dialogue with him. We met this morning with the prime minister and we have some very interesting dialogue with him as well with respect of Jordan's needs and the ability of the United States to facilitate them."

"I think King Hussein did himself work well in his endeavours in the peace accord where he was very instrumental on the Hebron issue during the past few days. His statement was something that should be admired worldwide."

"We are optimistic that the United States and Jordan will remain friends in the years to come. As a result of that friendship we will be able to provide economic stability in the form of moneys to Jordan as well as continued military

support through programmes and through according Jordan the opportunity to purchase the necessary armament to ensure protection of this great country," said Mr. Callahan.

Mr. Kabariti told Mr. Callahan and his delegation that there was urgent need for supporting the Middle East peace process by ensuring the region's social and economic development so that its people can enjoy economic stability and prosperity. The prime minister underlined the importance of world efforts to achieve that goal and in encouraging foreign capital to be invested in this region.

The prime minister reviewed with the U.S. delegation the developments in the peace process and Jordan's efforts for a just and comprehensive peace as well as the outcome of King Hussein's visits to Gaza and Tel Aviv and his talks with the Palestinian and Israeli leaders this week.

Mr. Kabariti also reviewed

with the delegation the government's plans to achieve economic reform and voiced appreciation to friendly nations and institutions, particularly the U.S., for extending a helping hand to the Kingdom and supporting its economy. He also paid tribute to the U.S. Congress's endeavours to ensure support for Jordan's struggle to establish a permanent peace in this region.

During the meeting Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf outlined the Jordanian economic developments and investment programmes as presented to donor nations at a meeting in Paris last summer.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai also received the U.S. delegation and presented them with a review of the Armed Forces development. He also spoke about the Armed Forces' role through their participation in peacekeeping missions around the world.



## Hariri hopes for increase in Lebanon's trade with Syria

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri said in remarks published Monday that he hoped for an increase in trade with Syria following talks over the weekend aimed at opening the Syrian market to Lebanese goods.

"The Damascus negotiations aim at opening the way to Lebanese industrialists and investors wishing to export to Syria or via Syria," Mr. Hariri, himself a wealthy businessman, was quoted as saying by Lebanese newspapers.

The Lebanese-Syrian Coordination Committee, cochaired by Mr. Hariri and his Syrian counterpart Mahmoud Al Zu'bi, sealed agreements on investment guarantees, elimination of double taxation and creation of joint border customs offices.

It also lowered taxes on Lebanese trucks transporting goods to Syria or heading to other Arab countries through Syria and slightly increased

Lebanon's share in the Orontes River waters.

A 1994 accord granted Lebanon 20 per cent of the 400 million cubic metres of water each year from the Orontes, a 570-kilometre river whose source is in northeastern Lebanon but flows mainly through Syria to the Mediterranean.

However, two decisions essential to Beirut — aimed at facilitating Lebanese exports to Syria and ending illegal entry of Syrian agricultural and industrial products — were postponed until a new committee meeting next Monday.

Mr. Hariri said it is "abnormal that Lebanon could not export its goods to Syria, and it is abnormal that Syrian products enter Lebanon in a way that is not in line with the rules and that they compete with Lebanese products."

Mr. Hariri was also reported to have complained that in the absence of diplomatic relations between Beirut and Dam-

ascus, Lebanese businessmen have to travel to Amman to complete export formalities at the Syrian embassy.

Syria is the main power broker in Lebanon, and has 35,000 soldiers and thousands of security agents in the country.

Mr. Hariri also noted that it was difficult to strengthen Lebanese-Syrian economic cooperation because Lebanon had a free-market economy while Syria is strongly centrally managed.

The weekend committee meeting in the Syrian capital took place in the presence of seven ministers from each side and was held at the initiative of the Lebanese government.

The committee was created after the signing in 1991 of a Lebanese-Syrian treaty of friendship and cooperation covering economic matters as well as external policy and security.

Lebanon's imports from Syria, mainly oil products, reached \$236 million in

1996 while Syria bought \$69 million of Lebanese goods.

Contributing to the Lebanon trade deficit is the \$1 billion drained to Syria by the approximately one million Syrian workers in Lebanon who are mainly employed on construction sites, in plantation fields and in garbage collection.

Lebanese business leaders believe that bilateral cooperation has greater benefits for Syria which subsidises production so its goods, such as textiles and agricultural products, have an edge.

Much enters Lebanon illegally, and customs barriers should be lifted to enable Lebanese companies to access Syria's market with 16 million consumers, the businessmen say.

Mr. Zu'bi, however, said after the weekend meeting that he was pleased with the "the complete coordination" by Syria and Lebanon, which will "benefit the two countries."

## World Bank head urges U.S. to step up development assistance

WASHINGTON (AFP) — World Bank President James Wolfensohn Monday issued a pointed appeal to the United States, which contributes but a tiny fraction of its wealth to overseas development, to "reengage" in the outside world.

In remarks to an audience that included U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, Mr. Wolfensohn decried a fall in U.S. contributions to the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA), which provides interest-free loans to the poorest countries in the world.

"Right now, America's level of overseas development assistance has diminished to the point where the United States is in the unique position of being last of the

OECD (the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) countries in terms of per-capita contribution to IDA," he said.

"The time has come for America to reengage," he stressed.

Despite strong growth in developing economies, which could prove to be lucrative markets for U.S. goods, "less than one tenth of one per cent of U.S. gross domestic product goes to official development assistance," Mr. Wolfensohn said.

In the past eight years, the value of U.S. exports to developing countries has more than doubled, increasing from \$91 billion in 1987 to more than \$191 billion in 1995, he said.

Such exports now account for 33 per cent of total U.S. exports.

"And that means jobs here in the United States," he said.

Mr. Wolfensohn appealed to the United States to recommit itself to the IDA, not out of compassion but out of "self-interest."

IDA funds are earmarked for countries with per capita incomes of under \$865 a year, notably those that attracted very little of the \$230 billion in private capital invested in developing countries last year.

The United States had agreed to pay its arrears to the IDA — which amount to \$934.5 million — during the fiscal year that ended last Sept. 30 and to contribute \$800 million for each of the

two following years of an IDA replenishment programme.

But the Republican-controlled Congress approved only 700 million of the \$934.5 million that had been pledged for the 1995-1996 fiscal year.

In addition, and also in the face of congressional opposition, the Clinton administration has been able to provide no new money for the first year of the July 1996 to July 1999 period covered by the 11th replenishment (IDA-11) programme.

The programme, which will need \$22 billion, was agreed on by donors in Tokyo last April.

Describing a "borderless world," Mr. Wolfensohn said that quality of life in the United States is linked to global concerns such as poverty, disease and environmental degradation.

"America cannot prosper while these problems remained unaddressed," he said.

## EU survey points to slowing investment

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Industrial investment in the European Union (EU) is slowing sharply despite accelerating growth in most EU economies, the European Commission's latest survey of business and consumer confidence indicated Tuesday.

The survey, carried out in October and November, found that industrialists in the manufacturing sector were anticipating growth in investment volumes of only two per cent this year after a three per cent expansion for 1996.

Last spring, the same industrialists were anticipating

investment growth of seven per cent for the whole of 1996.

The lowering of investment expectations was matched by a slight decline in overall confidence in the prospects for EU industry after seven months of steadily-improving sentiment.

Those expressing optimism about the future outstripped pessimists by 11 per cent in December. A positive balance of five per cent was anticipated increased production but big majorities were pessimistic about the prospects for fresh orders.

The gloomy outlook of

industry contrasted with much-improved sentiment among individual consumers and in the retail trade.

Rising exports and consumption helped the EU economy expand by 0.76 per cent in the third quarter of last year from the previous three months and by 1.47 per cent from a year earlier, according to Eurostat figures released Tuesday.

The growth was nearly twice the rate registered in the first two quarters of the year and was led by a 3.24 per cent rise in exports and a 0.58 per cent expansion of private consumption.

REUTERS

REUTERS

### The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NIL	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.9360	0.7564	0.9375	110.63	1.3497	1936.27	1.9360	6.5595
DE Mark	0.5200	1.0000	0.4836	0.5938	73.23	0.8458	193.62	1.0000	3.3756
GB Sterling	1.3497	2.6802	1.0000	1.2500	149.48	1.7163	203.71	1.3497	8.9371
CH Franc	0.7280	1.1583	0.4346	1.0000	136.77	0.9375	136.77	0.7280	2.4567
JP Yen	0.0088	1.3648	0.5129	1.1785	1.0000	1.1548	13.26	0.0088	4.6081
CA Dollar	0.7409	1.4766	0.4412	1.0183	1.15	1.0000	13.26	0.7409	3.9687
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0288	0.3886	0.8888	1328.73	0.8703	1.0000	0.0006	3.4728
NL Guilder	0.5582	0.8896	0.3345	0.3345	76.89	0.7530	864.94	0.5582	3.0047
FR Franc	0.1858	0.2960	0.1112	0.1112	25.5558	0.2505	33.24	0.1858	1.0000

Energy		Oil	Lat	Propane
Brent	23.75	23.85		
W. Texas	25.05	25.15		
Bony	23.75	23.85		
Dubai	21.46	22.46		
UL Gas	208.00	207.00		

Mid-East Currencies									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NIL	FRF
SA Riyal	0.2667	0.4255	0.15996	0.38782	31.1662				
AE Dirham	0.2724	0.43469	0.18243	0.37581	31.8431				
KW Dinar	3.3289	5.31067	1.99681	4.59137	389.105				
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.23191	1.59134	3.65098	310.078				
CY Pound	2.086	3.3256	1.25	2.8719	243.591				

Metal Prices			Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)					
Metal	Bid	Offer	Period	1	3	6	9	12
Gold (oz's)	357.2	357.7	USD	5.35	5.31	5.40	5.50	5.58
Silver (oz's)	4.7	4.72	GBP	5.94	6.25	6.50	6.68	6.93
Platinum (oz's)	362.5	363.5	JPY	0.31	0.32	0.33	0.35	0.50
AL (3 Months)	1615.5	1616	DEM	2.53	2.50	2.55	2.55	2.57
CU (3 Months)	2280	2282	FRF	3.25	3.20	3.18	3.15	3.18
Zinc (3 Months)	1105	1106	CHF	1.54	1.43	1.50	1.50	1.56
Lead (3 Months)	707	709	ITL	7.27	7.01	6.70	6.46	6.33
Ni (3 Months)	7190	7200						

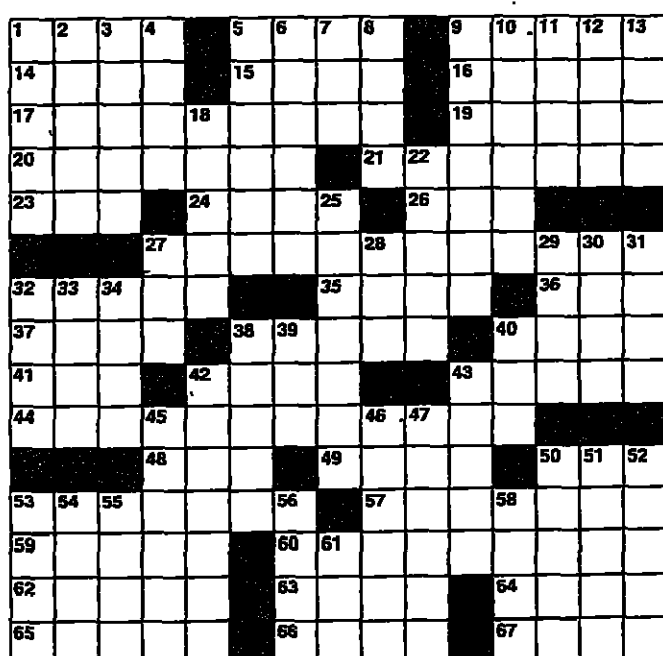
Main Equity Indices									
Bourse	Index	Value	Change	% Chg	High	Low	Pr Ch		
New York	DOW JONES	6747.28	-38.1	-0.57	6753.05	6707.54	6709.18		
Newyork	S&P 500	766.53	-7.02	-0.92	767.03	759.51	759.51		
London	FT-SE 100	4164.7	-57.4	-1.4	4164.7	4103.8	4107.3		
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	18093.13	-25.68	-0.14	18182.3	17545.5	18118.8		
Paris	CAC 40	2402.14	-40.87	-1.73	2403.74	2356.44	2361.27		
Frankfurt	DAX	2948.88	-6.07	-0.21	2955.77	2947.31	2954.95		

Energy			JOD Cross Rates			
Commodity	Last	Delivery	Currency	Buy	Sell	
Coffee (c/lbs)	122.83	Spot	US Dollar	0.708	0.710	
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1351	Spot	GB Sterling	1.1832	1.1891	
Sugar (\$/ton)	304.1	Spot	DE Mark	0.4445	0.4467	
Wheat (\$/ton)	135	Spot	CH Franc	0.5132	0.5158	
Soya (c/lbs)	23.25	Spot	FR Franc	0.1317	0.1324	
Tea (c/lbs)	118	Spot	JP Yen	0.0086	0.0096	
Barley (\$/bush)	2.17	Spot	NL Guilder	0.3958	0.3978	
Rice (\$/ton)	470	Spot	IT Lira	0.4569	0.4592	

JOD Cross Rates			
Currency	Buy	Sell	
US Dollar	0.708	0.710	
GB Sterling	1.1832	1.1891	
DE Mark	0.4445	0.4467	
CH Franc	0.5132	0.5158	
FR Franc	0.1317	0.1324	
JP Yen	0.0086	0.0096	
NL Guilder	0.3958	0.3978	
IT Lira	0.4569	0.4592	

### THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS
- Hebrew prophet
  - Protracted
  - Perth —, NJ
  - Myra Hess, e.g.
  - Grand Of —
  - Queen's command
  - Winning cagers in Barcelona, '92
  - About
  - Fix deeply
  - Convulsive shiver
  - Salton —, CA
  - Some votes
  - Practice
  - Highway mishap
  - Chic
  - Baseball team
  - Map abbr.
  - Kind of mug
  - Spurious
  - Moccasins
  - and all (everybody)
  - Principal
  - Demanding little effort
  - Battlefield radio
  - little bit country —
  - Camera part
  - Emergency aid letters
  - Shellfish
  - Biblical locale
  - Snitches
  - US-USSR contest
  - Jason's wife
  - Sailing maneuver
  - Investment accounts
  - Has the lead
  - March and Irving
  - Clear-headed



by Norma Steinberg

SIMP	MRED	CAROL
KNEE	AONE	ALIBI
ACRE	SODA	NOTED
THELACKOFMONEY		
SOS	ONE	
LATEST	ARTS	MAL
AROMA	BRIE	OISE
ISQUITEOFTENTHE		
NOUS	OAST	AMEER
ENE	ARTE	DRESSY
PTS	POT	
ROOTOFMUCHEVIL		
COPSE	LARK	DODO
AMASS	ALEE	ITEA
RELET	BEET	TEAM

- DOWN
- Ababa
  - Chateau-Thierry's river
  - The end
  - Char
  - Balm
  - Unwrapped
  - Gun lobby: abbr.

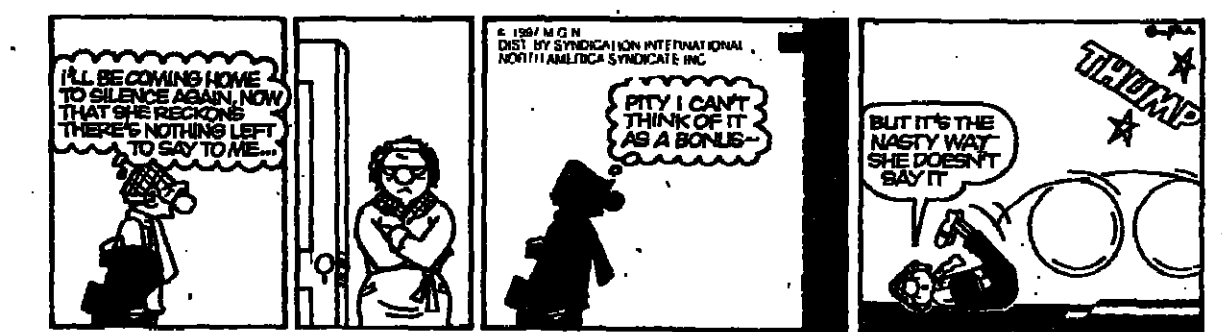
- Places for workouts
- Denounces
- Before name or voyage
- Kiwi or pewee
- In the past
- "The — of Living Dangerously"
- Arist Edouard
- Spouse
- Sedative
- Saute
- Try for office
- Boring routine
- Draw with acid
- Take five
- Pack
- Lisa
- Biblical victim
- Song of praise
- Success
- chart
- Orange juice and champagne drinks
- Cotton thread

- Something difficult to deal with
- Heritage
- Specific talents
- Barton or Bow
- Southern nut
- Musical Della
- Bank conveniences
- Borscht ingredient
- An Alan
- Como — used?
- Spring flower
- Actress Dawber

### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n' Jeff



### HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Get out today to see the individuals who can assist you in your career activities and provide you with valuable information. Enjoy fun in the public with close friends or your loved ones and thereby relieve any tension.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) If you get into new interests today, you get fine ideas for advancing quickly in the days ahead. Later this evening will be good to seek out knowledgeable person and gain their suggestions on completing your career activities.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You can enjoy pleasures with your mate tonight, so stay at home and you can spend a romantic time with him or her. Be happy together in each other company. Greater income is possible in the days ahead, so make every effort.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Be alert today to opportunities around you and make the best of any good fortune which comes in your direction. A newcomer wants to share profitable plan. So listen carefully to every detail and thereby you can be successful.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) This is a fine day today to arrange your activities for the days ahead and make them more streamlined. Later this evening will be a good time to get together with close friends and go out on the town for any fun activities.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You can bring the days ahead in with a bang and have a wonderful time with your family and friends. Later this evening would be a good time to consult with fellow associates concerning your career activities.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) It is best to entertain at home this evening so that you can be with kin and good friends. Don't forget any of your neighbours, otherwise they will feel left out and could resent your excluding them in your plans.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Make phone calls to those who are out of town and wish them a happy and prosperous time in the days ahead. Attend a party tonight with your close friends and show that you do appreciate them being in your life.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) It would be wise today to study into your financial records and know where you stand, so that you will have some extra funds for a rainy day. Plan to get together with close friends tonight for some fun activities.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Think and plan today what is wisest to do in the days ahead and consult with knowledgeable people for the best course of action. Spend the evening with good friends for a good time and thereby you can be rested.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Have a most romantic and uplifting evening with those you love and thereby make your time together quite special. Be happy as the days ahead become quite an experience and thereby you can make this time in your best interest.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Decide today which friends you want to retain in your life and strengthen those relationships. Spend the evening with good buddies and have a great time being in their company, so that you can be relaxed and alert.

Birthstone of January: Garnet — Rose Quartz.



# Business & Finance

Jordan Times, Wednesday, January 15, 1997 9

## Merchants find trading in used clothes highly profitable

By Shehab Makableh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Trading in used clothes can generate between JD150 and JD300 in net profit each day although the daily profit can go as high as JD500, merchants at downtown Amman say.

Ahmad Kana'n, a wholesaler at the most attractive shopping centre for used clothes at Al Tilyani Street, imports bales of used clothes from Germany at low costs and sells them at good prices.

"My daily net profit is about JD150 or about JD 4,500 monthly," Mr Kana'n said.

He pointed that merchants purchase their stocks from the used clothes market and resell them as new after washing and ironing them.

"Merchants in western Amman, for example, buy some suits, sweaters, jackets, coats, shoes and boots from used clothes merchants at relatively low prices and resell them after being washed and ironed at high prices," he explained.

Sharif Ghaith, another trader in used clothes at Al Tilyani Street, told the Jordan Times that he makes quite a profit by importing stocks of used clothes from different countries at hundreds of dinars and selling them at thousands of dinars.

Khaled Bino, a trader of used clothes, said that he tried several jobs but he did not find any of them as profitable as trading in used clothes.

"I took as many jobs as you can imagine, but

neither of them was as good as this job. It is profitable and comfortable business which is never affected by economic conditions," Mr Bino said.

"I earn between JD3,000 and JD5,000 monthly which is a sum quite impossible to make at any other job," Mr Bino indicated.

He described his job as successful and flourishing, saying that many officials frequent his shop monthly to buy some suits of well-known trade marks.

"Some officials purchase their clothes from my warehouse and ask me to choose the most suitable and appropriate suits for them in advance so that they just pass by and pay for their clothes and [sneak out].

## G-10 central banks tell gold market no sales planned this year

BASEL, Switzerland (AFP) — Central banks of G-10 countries Monday sent a strong message to the gold market that they will not sell any gold for the time being, countering alarm which has depressed prices by \$25 in two months.

Amid speculation that EU central banks might sell gold to meet single-currency deficit conditions, Bundesbank President Hans Tietmeyer said: "For the time being there is no intention of central banks to sell gold."

But speaking as chairman of the G-10 central bank governors, he added "there is no formal agreement on the subject."

He did not specify whether his remarks referred only to G-10 banks or also referred to other central banks in the European Union (EU).

Mr Tietmeyer was speaking outside the G-10 meeting and shortly after the Dutch central bank had announced

that it had sold 300 tonnes of gold last year but had no plans to sell any in 1997.

In London at midday the price of gold was \$358.75 from \$383.4 two months ago.

The bank governors meet each month at the Bank for International Settlements (BIS, the central bankers' central bank) here.

The Group of Ten (G-10) comprises 11 countries, seven of which are among the 15 members of the European Union. They are Belgium, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

In Amsterdam the Dutch central bank said that it had sold 300 tonnes of gold, or about one fifth of its reserves, in 1996, for 6.4 billion guilders (about \$3.6 billion).

A spokesman, Kort Hals Hotes, told AFP that the bank still held 1,032 tonnes of gold, the sixth largest amount

among industrialised countries.

The funds raised would be converted and paid into the foreign exchange reserves held by the bank between February and March 1997.

Another spokesman, Bert Groothoff, said the bank did not intend to sell any gold in 1997.

In 1992 the bank had sold 400 tonnes of gold or about one quarter of its holding at the time.

Last week, the governor of the Bank of France, Jean-Claude Trichet, rejected any suggestion that the bank might need to sell gold and noted that its gold reserves were the third biggest in the world.

The price of gold has fallen sharply recently, mainly because of rumours in the gold market that central banks of EU countries might sell gold this year to help their governments to meet deficit targets for the launch

of a single European currency.

This is the qualifying year for the launch on Jan. 1 1999.

Last week, experts at the EU Commission in Brussels, who declined to be named, poured cold water on the idea, telling AFP that such sales might enter the qualifying calculations if the gold belonged to the state and the central bank acted merely as selling agent.

Such a sale could not in any case be used to reduce the annual public deficit because it would represent a sale of stocks and was not budget revenue.

Article 104 of the Maastricht treaty forbade the future European central bank, or national banks, from offering any type of funding to central government.

This ruled out any possibility of central banks selling gold and using the funds raised to lend to states so that they could meet the qualifying criteria for a limited period.

Belgium had already sold gold to reduce its stock of public debt but any other state wanting to do this would have to meet several conditions.

One concerned the relationship between the state and the central bank and whether the central bank was quoted on the stock market, as was the case in Belgium.

Another question would concern ownership of the gold, and whether it belonged to the state or the central bank.

If a sale of gold by a central bank resulted in payment of a dividend to the state as shareholder, the question of whether or not the dividend amounted to a budgetary receipt could be considered.

The amounts involved were unlikely to have any significant effect on public deficits, the commission sources said.

## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

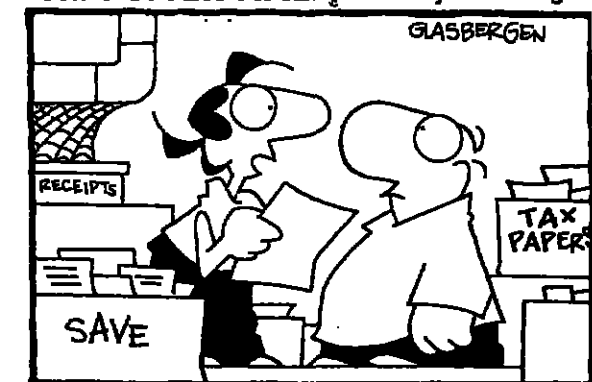
### Royal Jordanian targets cutting cost in 1997

\*\*REDUCING COSTS in the main and basic target for Royal Jordanian (RJ) in 1997 as the airline strives to provide the best of services at competitive costs through higher productivity and efficiency, RJ Director General Nader Dahabi said in a lecture. He pointed out that work is underway to develop the financial and accounting procedures and to reorganise the financial department.

The RJ chief mentioned the following points that are to be implemented in the drive to cut costs by the end of this year.

- 1) Adopting new performance standards that would relate costs to performance in all areas in order to have this mechanism as a basis for the evaluation of the executive management.
- 2) Reviewing all contracts and agreement between RJ and all other parties. This review has up till now resulted in large savings as the airline was able to get better and competitive agreements for the same service from other sources.
- 3) Cancelling many activities that are neither economically feasible nor effective as well as redesigning the operations to maximise the capabilities of the industrial engineering department.
- 4) Widening the decentralisation scheme by giving the employees more authorities in addition to training programmes and better incentives to cut costs, raise efficiency and productivity with special emphasis on the quality of services.
- 5) Specifying and limiting waste and taking immediate action to eliminate it. In this context, new recruitment policies were adopted and new appointments were limited to only necessary cases as priority was given to replacements and to redistribution of staff within the organisation (Al Ra'i).

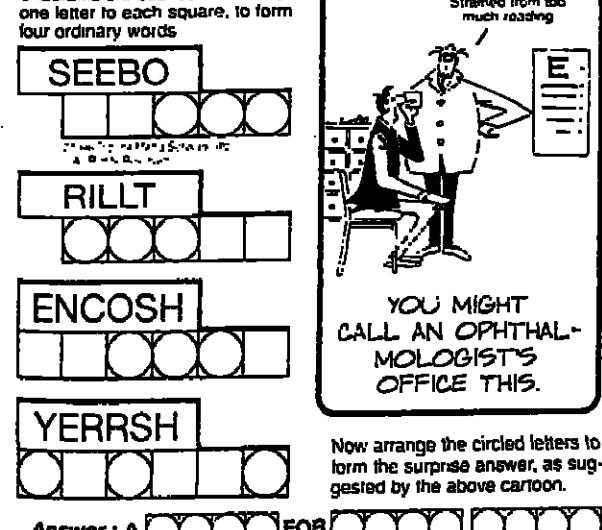
### THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"You were lazy in school. In 9th grade you wrote a book report about a bumper sticker!"

### JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words



Yesterday's Jumbles: ACRID GIANT GASKET FINISH  
Answer: You can have it and give it at the same time - STAFF FRIGHT

## Israeli diamond exports near \$4 billion in 1996

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli diamond exports rose to nearly \$4 billion last year and sales are expected to hit the \$5 billion level soon, the Israel Diamond Institute has reported.

The Diamond Traders Association said total exports of polished stones reached \$3,998 billion in 1996, up four per cent from the previous year.

The United States remained the top buyer

with a record \$2.35 billion in purchases, followed by Hong Kong at \$898 million, Japan (\$771 million) and Belgium (\$540 million), it said.

Institute Chairman Moshe Schnitzer said the 1996 figure "clearly indicates the strength of the Israeli industry."

"We are looking forward to \$5 billion in exports in the foreseeable future," he said.

## Austrian state to sell Creditanstalt to Bank Austria

VIENNA (AFP) — The state-controlled Creditanstalt, Austria's second-largest bank, is to be sold to the private Bank Austria, the country's biggest, for some \$1.5 billion, Chancellor Franz Vranitzky has announced.

The announcement came after 12 hours of almost non-stop talks between heads of the country's ruling left-right coalition, which had threatened to split over the privatisation of Creditanstalt.

Plans to sell off the bank, in which the state holds 48.61 per cent of the capital but 69.45 per cent of the voting rights, go back six years. The privatisation has been delayed by the government's desire to keep Creditanstalt out of foreign hands.

But there was also dissension for political reasons

within the government over the prospect of selling to Bank Austria, whose bid was only officially submitted on Dec. 11.

The two parties in the long-running coalition divide tight control over the management of the country's leading firms and institutions. The conservatives, who have close ties with Creditanstalt, feared that its takeover by Bank Austria, linked to Vranitzky's Social Democrats, would create an imbalance.

The merged bank would be the 30th largest in Europe.

Creditanstalt employs 9,828 people and has assets of 689 billion schillings (\$6 billion), compared with Bank Austria's 718 billion schillings and a staff of 10,200.

Mr. Vranitzky did not give full details of the deal.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
BANKING MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 14/01/1997											
PAST 12 MONTH HIGH	WITH LOW	CORPORATE NAME	P / K	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRANSACTIONS	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	UP/DN	CHG	CHG %
251,000	20,000	ANAB BANK	14.2	1.35	2	80	20630	257.00	257.00	0.00	0.00
3,480	900	BANK OF JORDAN	12.3	0.00	1	150	1776	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00
1,120	800	M.D. EAST INV. BK.	12.3	0.00	8	3250	3977	2.10	2.10	0.00	0.00
2,700	120	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	8.2	0.13	3	275	817	6.50	6.50	0.00	0.00
5,250	120	THE HOUSING BK.	12.5	2.90	6	1140	6255	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
2,950	450	JOR. KIMAT. BANK	19.0	0.00	1	50	131	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
1,090	80	JOR. SEC. BANK	8.7	0.17	1	60	2075	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
4,160	3,480	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.8	0.00	4	4350	16095	3.70	3.70	0.00	0.00
1,450	1,000	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	4	0.00	10	3500	4492	1.20	1.20	0.00	0.00
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 196.27	CHG: +0.40	37	13931	94562				
2,820	1,800	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	5.4	10.53	3	500	950	1.90	1.90	0.00	0.00
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 120.32	CHG: -0.05	2	500	950				
1,830	1,450	JOR. ELECTRIC P.W.	12.4	7.32	9	3700	4068	1.63	1.63	0.00	0.00
5,850	4,200	APAS INTL. HOTELS	17.8	2.85	1	300	1350	4.50	4.50	0.00	0.00
1,720	1,080	HATIL PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	8	1550	1876	1.20	1.20	0.00	0.00
1,050	820	REAL ESTATE INV.	19.1	4.23	4	4100	1528	1.90	1.90	0.00	0.00
1,230	960	ZARQA EDUCATION	9	0.00	1	800	800	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
2,280	1,690	UNITED CO.	12.3	4.65	35	26850	37900	2.24	2.24	0.00	0.00
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 111.51	CHG: +0.01	58	37100	71369				
3,780	3,360	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	19.1	2.99	11	624	2747	3.30	3.30	0.00	0.00
1,800	2,110	JOR. FERTILISER	35.1	0.00	2	80	293	3.70	3.70	0.00	0.00
6,000	4,950	ARAB COINVEST	17.3	3.50	1	200	1142	5.70	5.70	0.00	0.00
10,400	8,720	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.9	8.15	14	2094	20654	9.75	9.75	0.00	0.00
2,700	1,550	INDUSTRIAL CORP. AG.	13.6	0.00	19	8912	16209	2.45	2.45	0.00	0.00
7,950	1,400	JOR. STEEL	5.6	0.00	5	1710	11373	6.95	6.95	0.00	0.00
4,730	3,040	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	19.8	5.56	12	2617	9446	3.50	3.50	0.00	0.00
6,850	5,650	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	7.6	4.10	2	544	3314	6.10	6.10	0.00	0.00
5,000	5,000	JOR. PET. & PAC.	7.5	0.00	1	442	2098	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00
2,350	1,700	JOR. PAPER MANF.	8.9	7.50	11	450	720	1.60	1.60	0.00	0.00
3,830	2,200	JOR. PAPER TRD.	17.1	3.00	1	350	1166	3.32	3.32	0.00	0.00
3,710	2,000	JOR. PAPER TRD.	6.9	11.24	2	800	1245	2.80	2.80	0.00	0.00
660	450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9	0.00	34	84150	53015	52	52	0.00	0.00
1,440	1,360	ARAB PAPER CONV. TRD.	7.9	8.85	9	1950	2280	1.16	1.16	0.00	0.00
1,120	840	UNION TOBACCO	10.4	5.67	32	27950	16155	1.70	1.70	0.00	0.00
1,580	930	INTERNET. PETRO. CHEM.	8	0.00	8	2150	2164	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00
1,150	780	JOR. ROCKWELL IND.	8	0.00	2	500	405	0.83	0.83	0.00	0.00
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 114.34	CHG: +0.60	228	183732	215297				
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 153.00	CHG: +0.45	325	235263	342717				
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 14/01/1997											
740	440	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	19.7	0.00	1	280	223	50	50	0.00	0.00
800	400	JOR. FERTILISER	35.1	0.00	2	80	293	3.70	3.70	0.00	0.00
990	760	UNION INV. CO.	9.9	0.00	18	25750	8478	5.70	5.70	0.00	0.00
960	370	ARAB P.W. INVEST.	9	0.00	23	88500	40453	5.50	5.50	0.00	0.00
950	670	AL-DARVILAR 75	19.6	0.00	1	450	1598	99	99	0.00	0.00
640	310	JOR. IND. PATCH-JEMCO	0	0.00	9	5000	1610	34	34	0.00	0.00
800	10	ARAB FOOD & MED.	0	0.00	13	8250	5320	60	60	0.00	0.00
1,220	10	NATL. TEXTILE	0	0.00	5	10450	14625	1.30	1.30	0.00	0.00
690	490	ARAB PAPER TRD.	0	0.00	9	18000	1610	34	34	0.00	0.00
900	520	NATL. TEXTILE	0	0.00	9	8650	4649	56	56	0.00	0.00
960	400	NATL. MISC. ENG. MANCO	0	0.00	26	36950	1832	50	50	0.00	0.00
740	380	SWAZER P.T.S. & WOLDS	0	0.00	3	650	210	52	52	0.00	0.00
990	70	JORDAN STEEL	0	0.00	6	679	471	75	75	0.00	0.00
780	20	MIDEAST PHARM. 754	0	0.00	4	1550	567	64	64	0.00	0.00
1,310	120	UNION TOBACCO 754	0	0.00	17	32100	435	1.60	1.60	0.00	0.00
770	570	RACI PHARM. 65	0	0.00	7	550	235	1.20	1.20	0.00	0.00
770	390	INDOS. EGY.	25.9	0.00	9	19500	6	42	42	0.00	0.00
1,320	100	INDOS. CERAMIC	0	0.00	3	850	6	72	72	0.00	0.00
640	580	PEARL SAS. P.	0	0.00	4	18550	1	7	7	0.00	0.00
1,040	530	M.D. EAST COMPLEX	8.0	0.00	31	121200	1	7	7	0.00	0.00
GRAND TOTAL			200	401679							

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## Malone leads way as Jazz end road losing streak

PHILADELPHIA (R) — A trip to Philadelphia for a meeting with the struggling 76ers was just what the Utah Jazz needed to end their eight-game road losing streak.

Karl Malone scored 28 points to lead the Jazz, who squeaked through for a 97-96 overtime victory Monday.

Jeff Hornacek and Bryon Russell added 16 points apiece for the Jazz, who were 6-of-9 from the foul line in the extra session while Philadelphia did not have a free throw attempt.

Mark Davis scored 24 points on 12-of-16 shooting for the 76ers, who have lost nine in a row and 19 of their last 20.

Sixers rookie Allen Iverson scored 23 points before fouling out with 1:38 to go in overtime.

Both teams blew chances to claim a lead with time running out in regulation.

"It weighed on our minds at the end and we played tight down the stretch," Utah's John Stockton said of the road slide. "Hopefully with this win, we can get past that."

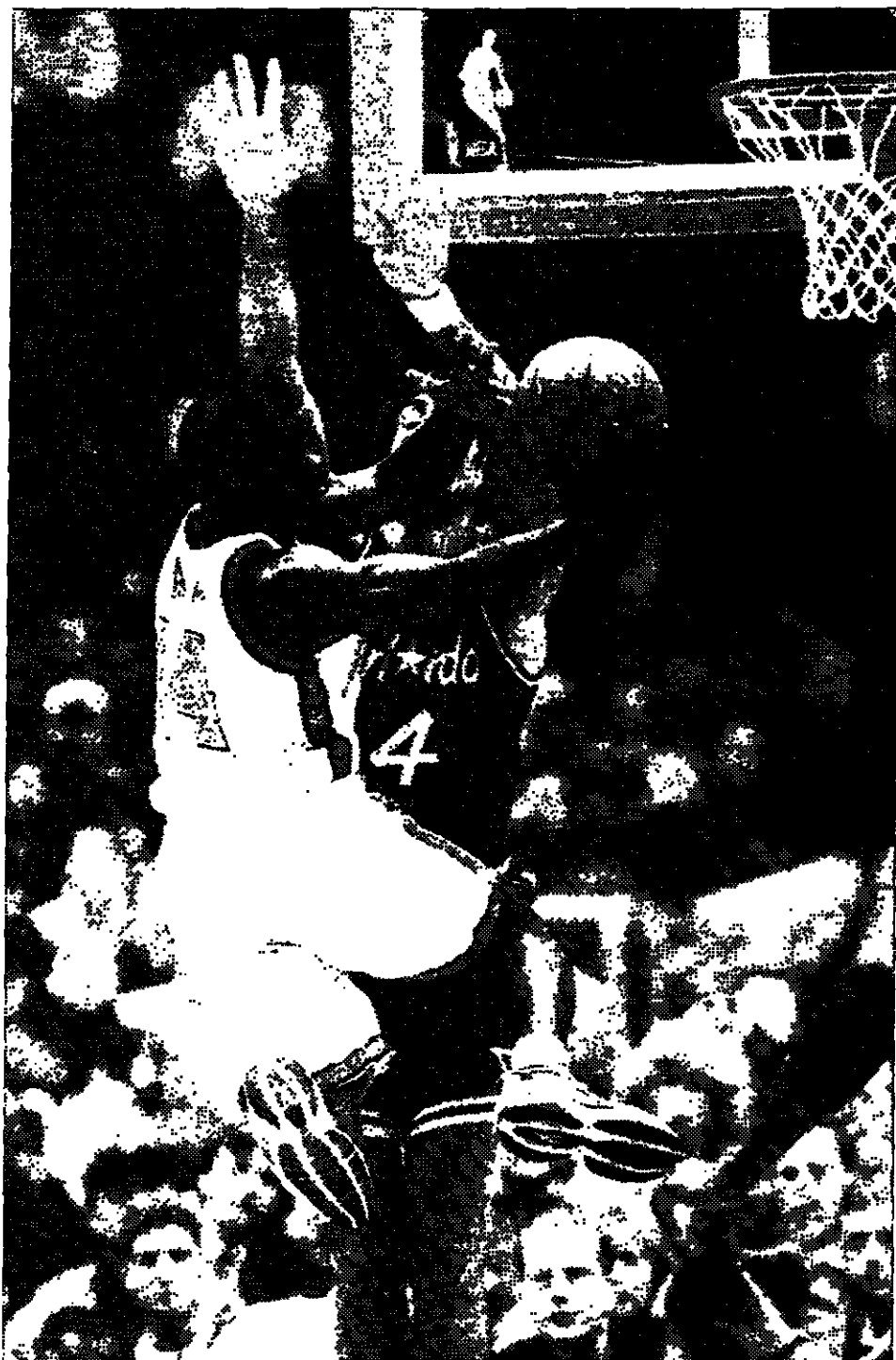
A driving layup by Davis with five seconds left in overtime cut the Utah lead to one. Utah's Chris Morris then missed two free throws but time expired before Philadelphia could get control of the ball for a final shot.

"I'd rather lose by 50 than to get beat like we did tonight," Iverson said.

In Denver, Tony Smith's jumper with 1:29 remaining turned out to be the only points of the lowest-scoring overtime in NBA history, giving the Charlotte Hornets a 102-100 victory over the Nuggets.

Glen Rice scored 25 points and Dell Curry added 23 for Charlotte, while Laphonso Ellis had 23 and Bryant Stith 22 to pace the Nuggets.

But it was Smith's lone basket of the game that decided the contest as Denver was held scoreless.



New Jersey Nets guard Robert Pack (14) tries to outleap a leaping Rony Seikaly, Orlando Magic center, to score in the first period of their NBA game at the Meadowlands Arena in East Rutherford, New Jersey. Orlando beat New Jersey 114-111 (Reuters photo)

in a 2-0 overtime session. The previous record for lowest scoring overtime period was four points set by Seattle and Philadelphia in 1990 and matched by San Antonio and New York in 1995.

In Miami, Alonzo Mourning scored 10 of his

32 points in the final period and Tim Hardaway added 28 points as the Heat blew a 22-point fourth-quarter lead but held off the Washington Bullets, 98-95.

Juwan Howard led Washington with 23 points, while George Mursan added 17 and Chris Webber chipped in 15.

The Bullets trailed 82-60 with 9:22 left, but cut the deficit to 95-92 after going on a 19-5 tear.

A Webber three-pointer in the final minute cut the gap to two points, but he missed his next three-point attempt, which would have given the Bullets the lead.

In Cleveland, Christian Laettner had 25 points and eight rebounds as the Atlanta Hawks extended their season-high winning streak to six games with a 93-79 thumping of the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Dikembe Mutombo added 16 points and 14 rebounds and Mookie Blaylock had 15 points and 10 assists for Atlanta, which held the Cavaliers to just 28 second-half points.

Terrell Brandon scored 21 points and Chris Mills added 13 for Cleveland, which lost its fourth in a row.

At New Jersey, Rony

Seikaly scored 29 points and led a fourth-quarter surge as the Orlando Magic rallied for a 114-111 victory over the Nets.

Seikaly scored seven straight Orlando points to finish a late 22-5 burst that erased an 11-point deficit. Dennis Scott scored 27 points and Horace Grant added 26 for the Magic.

The defeat wasted a fine effort by Kendall Gill, who poured in a career-high 41 points, while Robert Pack had 33 points and 18 assists for the Nets, losers of six of their last seven games.

In Dallas, Cedric Ceballos made a successful return to Phoenix with 26 points and 12 rebounds as the Suns held off the Dallas Mavericks 105-98.

Ceballos was playing his first home game for his former club since being traded by the Lakers on Friday.

Chris Gatling scored 22 points and Michael Finley added 18 for Dallas, which erased a 26-point deficit to tie the game at 95-95 with a little over two minutes remaining.

Kevin Johnson and Danny Manning contributed 22 points apiece for the Suns, who regained their composure with an 8-3 run after blowing their huge lead.

### NBA RESULTS

Atlanta	93	Cleveland	79
Miami	98	Washington	95
Orlando	114	New Jersey	111
Utah	97	Philadelphia	96 (OT)
Phoenix	105	Dallas	98
Charlotte	102	Denver	100 (OT)

## Newcastle players back Beardsley

NEWCASTLE (AFP) — Newcastle players have called on the club to replace manager Kevin Keegan with star player Peter Beardsley.

One of the most outspoken has been mid-fielder Robert Lee.

"Obviously the board will decide what to do, but I'd be happy if Peter got it," said Lee, stressing that he was speaking as an individual and not as team spokesman.

But he added: "And the players think the same way."

Lee spoke highly of Beardsley's commitment to Newcastle, saying that it made up for his lack of managerial experience.

"He's a goody, he's loved by the fans and he has the club at heart. To replace Kevin I think you need someone like that."

"People say he has no managerial experience but then neither did Kevin Keegan or Kenny Dalglish or Bryan Robson before they came into it."

"Great players don't need to be taught, they have it all up there and so has Peter."

"When you've done as much as they have as players, what more can you teach them? Maybe Peter, Arthur Cox and Terry McDermott could be our dream team? We'll just have to wait and see," he added.

Lee even had an explanation for Beardsley's stony silence over the last few days.

"He's too nice to come out and push himself forward."

"We all give Peter some friendly stick, and tell him we are going to put his name in."

"He gets on with everybody from the tea-lady to the top players, and I would have thought he would have to be involved somewhere," he insisted.

The midfielder, however, did not envisage Beardsley changing the team's game plan at a grassroots level.

"Whoever takes over won't have to change things around much."

Arthur and Terry are doing a very good job and we all want to win for each other."

"We have a great squad, great team spirit, and still a great chance of winning the title," concluded Lee.

Meanwhile, Newcastle's search for a manager continued.

The club were known to be talking with Bobby Robson in Spain, while former Liverpool and Blackburn manager Kenny Dalglish has said he would take over if asked.

Newcastle chairman Sir John Hall believes the 63-year-old Robson is the man to deliver the Premiership title to St James's Park, possibly in tandem with Beardsley.

Robson, Barcelona's former England manager, watched in disbelief on Monday night as his championship-chasing side went down 3-2 at home to Jowly Hercules.

Robson was due to hold a high-level meeting about his future with the Barcelona president Josep Lluís Nunez.

Newcastle are understood to have originally promised Robson a five-year deal on a similar salary to Barcelona, where he earns around 600,000 pounds a year.

## Grobelaar pleads not guilty to match-fixing

WINCHESTER (R) — Former Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar on Tuesday pleaded not guilty to charges he had accepted money to influence the outcome of a premier league soccer match.

Grobelaar, fellow goalkeeper Hans Segers, former striker John Fashanu and Malaysian businessman Heng Suan Lim on Tuesday went on trial accused of match-fixing in the first trial of its kind in England for more than 30 years.

A court official read out a statement saying that all four men had pleaded not guilty to the charges they face.

Grobelaar denies a charge of accepting 40,000 pounds (\$67,000) from Fashanu to influence the result of a Newcastle United versus Liverpool game in November 1993.

when Grobbelaar was playing for Liverpool. Newcastle won 3-0.

Television presenter and businessman Fashanu denies giving Grobbelaar the money as a reward for having improperly influenced or attempted to influence the outcome of the match.

He also denies giving Segers 19,000 (\$32,000) pounds as a reward after Wimbledon's 3-0 defeat at Liverpool in October 1994. Segers denied accepting the money. Grobbelaar also denies a charge of accepting 2,000 pounds (\$3,300) from his former business partner, Chris Vincent, in November 1994 for throwing an unspecified match.

Grobelaar was transferred to Southampton before the 1994/95 season.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Aamodt wins giant slalom

ADELBODEN, Switzerland (R) — Kjetil Andre Aamodt of Norway won a men's Alpine ski World Cup giant slalom race on Tuesday in a time of two minutes 23.52 seconds, according to provisional results. Michael Von Gruenigen of Switzerland was second in 2:23.69 and Austrian Andreas Schifferer was third with a time 2:23.96.

### MLB owners prepare for new clubs

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (AFP) — Major league baseball owners will meet for the first time since settling their labour dispute with players when they gather here Tuesday for three days of looking to the future. Owners will assign two 1998 expansion clubs, the Arizona Diamondbacks and Tampa Bay Devil Rays, to either the National or American leagues. They will bring the number of top-level north American clubs to 30. Regular-season games will be played between leagues for the first time in 1997, but the programme would have to be expanded if each league was boosted to 15 clubs for next year, as is expected. Reports have said owners favour adding Arizona to the National League and Tampa Bay to the American League. The Diamondbacks would join the NL West Division and balance the three brackets at five teams each. In the AL, Tampa Bay probably would join the East Division, allowing Detroit to move into the central and Kansas City to shift into the West Division. That alignment would give Texas a non-Pacific coast rival in the west and make Detroit geographically correct. The Tigers are in the east but based west of Central Division champion Cleveland. A search committee is also likely to be named.

### French skiing instructors sentenced

ALBERTVILLE (AFP) — Four ski instructors were given suspended prison sentences Monday and ordered to pay heavy compensation by a court here following the death of two skiers in avalanches. Didier Bonnevie was found guilty of involuntary homicide after one skier died and a number were hurt at Val d'Isere a year ago when he took them off piste knowing there was a strong risk of avalanches. Bonnevie was given a three month suspended sentence and ordered to pay a fine of 100,000 francs (\$20,000) and damages of 440,000 francs to the victim's family. Bruno Arène, Didier Givois and Jean-Léon Pernier were each sentenced to a month suspended and fined 5,000 francs after an incident near La Plagne, when they provoked an avalanche by taking a short cut, causing the death of one person in a group of four skiing below them. The three instructors were ordered to pay the family of the dead man, a 48-year-old lawyer, a total of 300,000 francs, plus 5,000 francs to another skier who was injured.

### Juventus want Klinsmann

TURIN (AFP) — Juventus want to buy Bayern Munich star Jürgen Klinsmann to replace their Croatian striker Alan Boksic who will be out of action for two months with an ankle injury. The European champions were reported to be keen on taking on Klinsmann, in dispute with Bayern's Italian coach Giovanni Trapattoni, until the end of the season. Fabrizio Ravanelli, who left for English Premier League side Middlesbrough after helping Juventus win the European Cup, is also said to be on their wanted list.

### Minor League club spring surprise

LONDON (R) — Minor League Huddersford achieved a shock 1-0 F.A. Cup third round win over English second division side York Monday. A 43rd minute penalty by Keith Russell gave Huddersford a lucrative fourth round match with Premier League Middlesbrough in two weeks. York always struggled after midfielder Gary Hinsworth was sent off after giving away the spot kick when he handled Paul Carty's shot on the goal line.

### Bologna coach apologises

BOLOGNA (R) — Bologna coach Renzo Ulivieri apologised on Monday for swearing during a post-match news conference broadcast live by several radio stations including one linked to the Catholic church. Ulivieri, a straight-talking man of the people who keeps a bust of Lenin on his mantelpiece, said he was not aware that his early language after Bologna lost 1-0 to Parma at home on Sunday was being broadcast live on local stations. "If I had known, I would have controlled myself. But anyhow I apologise to anyone I may have offended. It won't happen again," the coach said.

## Barcelona suffer shock defeat

BARCELONA (R) — Former England coach Bobby Robson may have second thoughts about turning down an offer to take over at Newcastle after seeing his Barcelona side throw away a 2-0 lead to lose 3-2 to struggling Hercules on Monday.

Barcelona's defeat by a team who had not gained a single Spanish first division away point this season shocked the Nou Camp stadium fans, who had hoped to see their team go top of the league but ended the game screaming abuse at Robson.

One of the biggest league upsets in recent years is certain to bring calls to replace Robson, who on Friday made clear he is not in the running for the Newcastle post following Kevin Keegan's resignation as manager of the English Premier League team.

The result is also a gift to leaders Real Madrid, who now lead Barcelona by three points despite drawing their weekend game at Extremadura.

Barcelona started at a terrific pace, and went ahead after just eight minutes when Luis Enrique Martinez combined with Luis Figo and clipped the ball past Miguel Mari.

The Hercules goalkeeper looked set to be on the receiving end of a goal avalanche in the 15th minute when Ronaldo turned superbly and rifled home a well-placed shot from the edge of the box.

Barcelona could have scored several more as Ivan de La Pena, Martinez and Josep Guardiola took control of midfield.

But Robson's defence were outplayed at a cross in the 34th minute, and Guardiola helped a header by Dubravko Paulovic over the line when he was trying to clear.

The goal helped Hercules to recover their confidence and just before halftime Yugoslav midfielder Josip Vrsnjic was on hand to thunder home the equaliser after a fine move.

Ten minutes after the break Eduardo Rodriguez controlled a loose ball, beat his man and kept his composure to make it 3-2.

The Hercules players held on despite heavy Barcelona pressure in the last half hour, and celebrated the result as if they had won the championship.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAR HIRSH

#### ANSWER TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1 - East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
- 440073 46322 48 473
- The bidding has proceeded:
- NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
- 1 1 2 3
- What action do you take?
- A - You have a hand that is worth less than a deal minimum opening, but it might be in the form of distributional assets rather than high cards. For the moment, though, you can do no more than take a pre-emptive jump to two diamonds. Unless partner can bid again, game should be out of reach.
- Q.2 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
- 440073 46322 48 473
- The bidding has proceeded:
- NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
- 1 1 2 3
- What do you bid now?
- A - This is a case of all between a power play and a four-spacer or a jump shift. Although our wealth of first- and second-round controls are a persuasive argument for the latter course, partner may read you for an emotional hand if you make the slightly fancy jump to three diamonds. Since you are balanced, bid four spades.
- Q.3 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
- 440073 46322 48 473
- Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?
- A - Again, you have a hand rich in off-suit with very limited defense - eleven clubs to the fact that a pre-emptive bid of some sort is in order. Jump to four spades.
- Q.4 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
- 440073 46322 48 473
- The bidding has proceeded:
- NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
- 1 1 2 3
- What action do you take?
- A - You might or might not have game, but one thing is reasonably sure: two diamonds should be beyond the reach of East. We would double - even if declarer makes the contract, no great harm will have befallen you. Negative doubler has an obvious course - the hand is near perfect for that conventional call.

TODAY AT

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CINEMA TEL:634144  
**PHILADELPHIA "2"**  
Richard Gere, Sean Connery  
& Julia Ormond.....in  
**FIRST KNIGHT**  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:699238  
**PLAZA**  
Nour Al Sharif... in  
\*Al Huroub Ila Alqimma  
(Arabic)  
Shows: 12:00, 2:00  
\* **RANSOM**  
starring Mel Gibson  
Shows: 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:677420  
**CONCORD**  
**CONCORD "1"**  
**BAD BOYS**  
Shows: 12:15, 2:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30  
**CONCORD "2"**  
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ward for having improperly  
attempted to influence the  
match  
nies giving Segers 1000  
unds as a reward after  
3-0 defeat at Liverpool in  
Segers denied accepting the  
clant also denies a charge of  
10 pounds (\$1,600) from his  
as partner, Chris Vincent, in  
94 for throwing an unexpect-

was transferred to  
before the 1994-95 season

Barcelona  
suffer  
shock  
defeat

BARCELONA (R) —  
Former England coach  
Bobby Robson may have  
second thoughts about  
turning down an offer to  
take over at Newcastle  
after seeing his Barcelona  
side throw away a 2-0 lead  
to lose 3-2 to struggling  
Heterules on Monday.  
Barcelona's defeat by a  
team who had not gained a  
single Spanish first divi-  
sion away point this season  
shocked the Spanish giant  
dum fans, who had hoped  
to see them clinch the  
league by beating the  
game, securing a place in  
Robson.

One of the main league  
upsets in the past week is  
certain to be the result of  
replace Robson, who on  
Friday made headlines in  
the newspaper for his  
Newcastle manager Kevin  
Keegan's suggestion that  
as manager of the  
English Premier League  
team.

The result of the game  
leaders Robson and his  
new head, Robson, in  
three points, but during  
their week-end game at  
Heterules.

Barcelona's defeat at  
Heterules was a shock  
after the team had won  
when they played at  
Luis Figo's support  
ball past Monday.  
The Heterules victory  
looked like a blow to  
Barcelona's title hopes,  
but the team's reaction  
was a surprise. Robson  
turned up at the game  
home, and he was seen  
from the stands, waving  
Barcelona's fans. He  
scored a goal, and he  
de la Liga, Miguel de  
Josep Guardiola.

But Robson's reaction  
was not what the fans  
were expecting. He was  
in the stands, waving  
Barcelona's fans, and he  
scored a goal, and he  
de la Liga, Miguel de  
Josep Guardiola.

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## Australian Open

### Sampras starts march to final; Courier wins as Capriati sobs



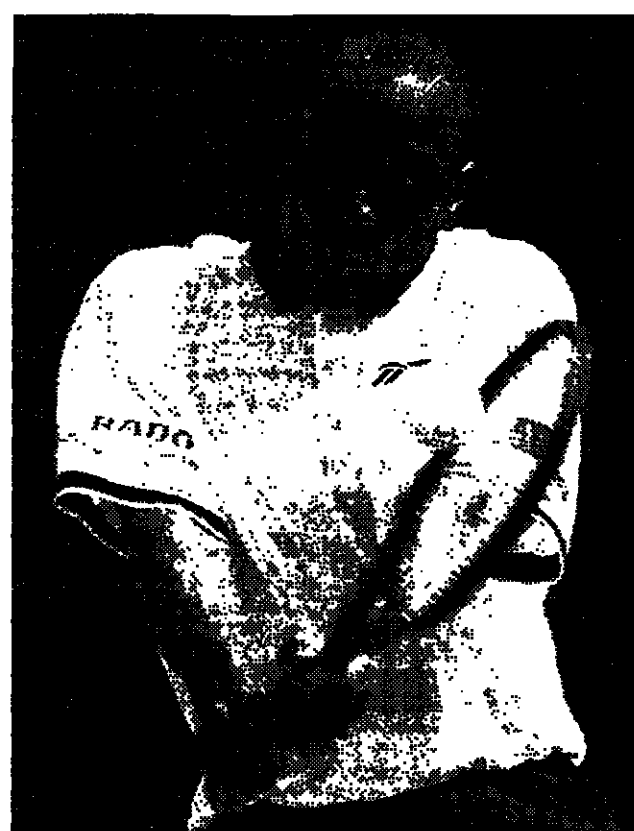
Spain's Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario plays a forehand volley during her first round match against Italy's Gloria Pizzichini at the Australian Open (Reuters photo)

MELBOURNE (R) —  
World No. 1 Pete Sampras  
and Swiss starlet Martina  
Hingis marched into the  
second round of the  
Australian Open on  
Tuesday but former prodigy  
Jennifer Capriati broke  
down in tears after an unex-  
pected defeat.

Sampras, top seed and hot  
favourite for the men's title,  
streamrollered Romanian  
qualifier Dinu Pescariu 6-2  
6-4 6-2.

Sixteen-year-old Hingis,  
with a multi-million-dollar  
sportswear endorsement  
deal newly under her belt,  
picked up a warning for  
racket abuse before subdu-  
ing German veteran Barbara  
Rittner 6-1 7-5 on centre  
court.

But the real drama came  
in the off-court media room  
where Capriati, whom  
Hingis replaced as the  
sport's teenage darling,  
broke down in tears after



Malavai Washington of the U.S. plays a backhand during her first round match against Jacco Eltingh of the Netherlands at the Australian Open (Reuters photo)

being ousted in the first  
round of her Australian  
Open comeback.

Four years after her last  
appearance in Melbourne,  
when she reached the quar-  
ter-finals at the age of 16,  
Capriati was beaten 6-2 3-6  
6-4 by fellow American  
Jolene Watanabe in a per-  
formance which left a  
crowd of fans disappointed.

After reaching the final of  
a Sydney warm-up tourna-  
ment on Saturday, Capriati

conference.

Asked how she felt about  
the warm public support she  
has enjoyed since returning  
to tennis, Capriati started to  
reply "just being out there  
and hearing the crowd..."  
but burst into tears, sobbing  
heavily before being escort-  
ed away.

Czechoslovak-born  
Hingis was warned by the  
umpire after throwing her  
racket into the net after a  
service break against her in  
the second set led to a short-  
lived string of errors.

Hingis had strolled  
through the first set but  
Rittner lifted her game in a  
see-sawing second set.

Even if Hingis fails to  
deny top seed Steffi Graf a  
fifth Australian Open  
crown, her financial future  
is secure.

Italian sportswear manu-  
facturer Sergio Tacchini  
announced a five-year deal  
which will see her paid at  
least \$7.5 million and up to  
\$12 million if she ousts Graf  
from the top spot.

In other action, men's 11th  
seed and former champion  
Jim Courier survived a first-  
round scare against  
Dutchman Sjeng Schalken,  
beating him 8-6 at the end  
of a five-set tussle.

Like Sampras and Becker  
after their first-round ties,  
Courier complained that the  
balls being used in the tourna-  
ment were too soft.  
Tournament director Paul  
McNamee said the balls  
were no different from those  
used last year.

In other action on a swel-  
tering but blustery second



Jennifer Capriati reacts during her first round match against compatriot Jolene Watanabe of the U.S. at the Australian Open January 14. Watanabe defeated Capriati 6-2 3-6 6-4 (Reuters photo)

day, German Anke Huber,  
the fifth seed and a losing  
finalist in Melbourne last  
year, recovered from a disas-  
trous start to beat  
American Amy Frazier 6-6  
6-2 7-5.

In the men's singles, three  
lower seeds advanced with-

out dropping a set between  
them.

South African Wayne  
Ferreira, seeded eight, over-  
powered clay-court special-  
ist Carlos Costa of Spain 6-  
3 6-2 6-2, while ninth-seed  
Chilean Marcelo Rios  
sent experienced Petr Korda

of the Czech Republic pack-  
ing 7-6 (7-4) 6-3 6-3 on cen-  
tre court.

Sixteenth seed Alberto  
Berastegui of Spain  
thrashed Australian Todd  
Larkham 6-1 6-2 6-4 on an  
outside court.

### Leading ATP rankings

MONACO (R) — Leading ATP Tour rankings	
1. Pete Sampras (U.S.)	4,865 Points
2. Michael Chang (U.S.)	3,597
3. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Russia)	3,480
4. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia)	3,465
5. Thomas Muster (Austria)	3,125
6. Boris Becker (Germany)	2,944
7. R. Krajicek (Netherlands)	2,380
8. Andre Agassi (U.S.)	2,364
9. Thomas Enqvist (Sweden)	2,191
10. Wayne Ferreira (S. Africa)	2,149
11. Marcelo Rios (Chile)	2,114
12. Todd Martin (U.S.)	1,875
13. Alberto Costa (Spain)	1,757
14. Tim Henman (Britain)	1,592
15. Stefan Edberg (Sweden)	1,567

### Hingis 4th in WTA Tour

MIAMI (AFP) — Switzerland's Martina Hingis, the win-  
ner in Sydney International, rose two places to fourth in the  
latest WTA Tour rankings released Monday as the  
Australian Open began in Melbourne.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN began in Melbourne	
1. Steffi Graf (GER)	4649 Pts
2. Monica Seles (USA)	3770
3. Arantxa Sanchez (SPA)	3669
4. Martina Hingis (SWI)	3321
5. Conchita Martinez (SPA)	3180
6. Jana Novotna (CZE)	3087
7. Anke Huber (GER)	2721
8. Iva Majoli (CRO)	2701
9. Lindsay Davenport (USA)	2245
10. Irina Spilica (ROM)	1718
11. Karina Habudova (SLO)	1708
12. Judith Wiesner (AUT)	1481
13. Brenda S. McCarthy (NED)	1469
14. Amanda Coetzer (RSA)	1454
15. Barbara Paulus (AUT)	1402

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## Multi-million deal puts Hingis under pressure

MELBOURNE (R) —  
Sponsors have made  
Martina Hingis a multi-  
millionaire at 16, putting  
the Swiss teenager under  
growing pressure to  
become world No. 1.

Italian sportswear com-  
pany Sergio Tacchini has  
agreed to spend at least  
\$7.5 million on the Swiss  
player, betting that she will  
one day do as her van-  
quished opponents predict  
and topple Steffi Graf from  
the top of women's tennis.

"She starts to feel the  
pressure now," the compa-  
ny's head of sponsorship,  
Leo Bassi, admitted on  
Tuesday after announcing

the five-year deal, which  
could bring Hingis millions  
of dollars more in ranking  
and tournament bonuses.

"She was too young only  
18 months ago to feel  
everything. I still don't  
think she realises how  
much money she has,  
because she has no time to  
spend it," Bassi said.

Hingis was burying  
German Barbara Rittner's  
hopes of an Australian  
Open second-round berth  
when the deal was  
announced and she merely  
shrugged when reporters  
later asked how it felt to  
be so rich at her age.

"I know what contracts

I've got but I just don't  
care. You just play your  
tennis," she said, a little  
embarrassed. "I just play  
and that's what I get."

Hingis leaves the deal-  
making to her mother and  
coach, Melanie, and con-  
centrates on matters on the  
court where she is, accord-  
ing to her peers, developing  
into a champion.

"She's had an incredible  
year. Especially in the last  
few months, she seemed  
not afraid of playing the top  
players and not afraid of  
winning tournaments," said  
21-times Grand Slam  
champion Graf before  
launching her own  
Australian Open campaign.

Hingis also notched up a  
victory last November over  
world No. 2 Monica Seles

in Oakland, becoming the  
youngest ever tennis play-  
er, man or woman, to earn  
\$1 million in prize money  
at the tender age of 16  
years, one month and 10  
days.

"Martina is tennis," said  
Bassi. "When people talk  
about tennis, they talk  
about Hingis. They don't  
talk about (Pete) Sampras  
or (Andre) Agassi, they talk  
about Hingis. She's the  
next generation, going  
towards 2000..."

"Who knows? Maybe  
(Graf) can play one or two  
more years but apart from  
Martina we don't see any  
other names. At the  
moment, the best invest-  
ment in tennis is Martina  
Hingis."

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The trip, which will start on Feb. 9 will be of a  
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The cost includes accommodation at deluxe three-  
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If you have registered during 1996, please  
confirm your continuing presence in  
Jordan by re-registering as soon as  
possible. Please also notify the Consular  
Section about any changes of address  
and/or telephone number. Such  
confirmation is in the interest of all British  
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If names are not re-registered within three  
months the Embassy will be obliged to  
consider that those concerned have left  
the country. The names will accordingly be  
deleted from the register.

If you are a citizen of a Commonwealth  
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or Consulate in Jordan, please ask the  
British Embassy, Consular Section, about  
registration formalities.

The British Embassy is located in  
Abdoun, near the Orthodox Club,  
Telephone 823100. The Post Office  
Box Number is 87.

The consulate is open from Sunday  
to Thursday 08:30-12:00 hours.



## U.S. says Cyprus crisis is over

ATHENS (Agencies) — U.S. envoy Carey Cavanaugh said on Tuesday the recent Cyprus missile crisis was over and that "soaring tensions" in the Eastern Mediterranean had been brought under control for the time being.

"The purpose of my trip to the region was to as much as possible reduce tension that really soared this year," he said after meeting the Greek Foreign Ministry's general secretary, Alexandros Filon.

He said some positive steps had been taken to reduce tension between rival Greek and Turkish Cypriots during talks on Cyprus on Monday.

"It is clear that this issue of missiles is no longer a crisis issue," he told reporters.

Mr. Cavanaugh received assurances from Greek Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides that recently purchased Russian anti-aircraft missiles would not arrive on the island for at least 16 months.

"I think there is time to work on a solution of the problem so that we don't face any potential conflict in the future," he said.

But Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş insisted Tuesday that Mr. Cavanaugh had failed to defuse the crisis.

"The Greeks must say that the missiles will never be deployed," Mr. Denktaş said at a press conference in Turkish-occupied northern Nicosia, the Turkish Anatolia news agency reported.



Israeli policewomen are confronted by a screaming Palestinian bedouin woman and her crying children on Tuesday morning as Israeli police move into the Jahalin bedouin camp on the outskirts of Jerusalem so the camp may be demolished to make way for the expansion of the Jewish settlement of Ma'ale Adumim (Reuters photo)

## Israeli army razes bedouin homes

JAHALIN BEDOUIN ENCAMPMENT, the West Bank (AP) — Israeli troops bulldozed three metal shacks that were home to a bedouin family on Tuesday — the first step towards evacuating dozens of families to make room for an expanding Jewish settlement.

About 10 young men who tried to block the bulldozers were dragged away by police.

"We decided to evacuate one of the families to make them realise it is time to move," said Peter Lerner, a spokesman for Israel's military administration in the West Bank.

About 45 families from the Jahalin bedouin tribe have lived and grazed their goats and sheep for decades on land east of Jerusalem. In recent years, their grazing land has been swallowed up by the red-roofed houses of Ma'ale Adumim, the largest West Bank settlement.

The shacks razed Tuesday were hemmed in on either side by an access road and a row of houses, just 10 metres away. After a protracted court battle, Israel's supreme court ruled in August that the Jahalin must leave the area.

The Jahalin been offered land near Abu Dis, a West Bank village on the outskirts of Jerusalem, but leaders of the tribe rejected the offer, saying the rocky site is too close to a garbage dump.

"What's going on is racism," Mohammad Hersh, a

spokesman for the tribe, said Tuesday.

Mr. Hersh said the tribe had appealed to Palestinian officials for help, but had gotten no response.

"Today they may sign an agreement on peace, but this is going at the expense of the Arab Jahalin," he said.

Mr. Lerner said the area around Ma'ale Adumim was declared state land in 1981, and insisted that the bedouins settled there on a permanent basis only seven years later.

He said families that agreed to be relocated would be given land, water and electricity on the new site, and the army would pay for the cost of the move.

The semi-nomadic Jahalin used to roam the southern desert, cultivating land and grazing sheep. Shortly after Israel's creation, they were moved by the Israeli army to the West Bank. Many of the Jahalin settled in the desert east of Jerusalem.

When the West Bank was occupied by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war, the bedouins once again came under Israeli control.

The Jahalin, who number about 2,000 in the Ma'ale Adumim area, are among tens of thousands of bedouins living in Israeli-controlled areas. Many bedouins have resettled in homes over the years.

## S. Africa rejects U.S. demand to scrap Syria deal

CAPE TOWN (Agencies) — President Nelson Mandela's spokesman accused the United States on Tuesday of trying to bully South Africa over a proposed arms deal to Syria and said Pretoria would not be dictated to by the superpower.

"We detest this kind of behaviour," spokesman Parks Mankahlana said in response to a U.S. threat to cut aid to South Africa if it went ahead with the three billion rand (\$641 million) sale to Syria.

"We don't understand even why the Americans are so hyped over this thing," Mr. Mankahlana said. "We'd rather be spoken to differently, as equals, instead of (Washington) making public threats."

South African government officials have said the cabinet will decide at its next meeting later this month whether to approve the sale to Syria of equipment to upgrade the firing control on its Soviet-made T72 tanks.

Syria is on a list of countries which the United States accuses of sponsoring terrorism and against which it seeks to maintain an international arms embargo.

In Washington, the U.S. State department said on

Monday it was deeply concerned about the proposed sale. "It would be extremely serious if these sales actually occurred," it said.

Mr. Mankahlana said the United States should not have gone public with its concerns in the way that it did.

"President (Bill) Clinton and President Mandela are a call away from each other. They phone each other very regularly. It could have been done (that way)," he said.

"We don't like grandstanding and they should not do that... the Americans are not going to guide us, they are not going to tell us what to do..."

"We just don't like being shouted at. We hope that they would know that it is not the right way of dealing with us."

"We are a sovereign country, and they are a sovereign country. We never shout at them when they are doing things," Mr. Mankahlana said.

South Africa, which is a major U.S. aid recipient and is due to receive \$120 million in 1996-97, has previously offended Washington by maintaining warm relations with Cuba, Libya and Iran.

## IAF denies Khaddam said Syria does not trust Kabariti government

By Tanya Habjouqa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Islamic Action Front (IAF) party on Tuesday dismissed as untrue a report in a local weekly quoting Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam as saying that Damascus "does not trust" the government of Abdul Karim Kabariti.

Ishaq Farhan, secretary-general of the IAF who headed the delegation to a Damascus meeting last week with the Syrian Baath Socialist Party (SBSP), was quoted by the Islamist Al Sabeel weekly as saying: "This report is totally baseless. Nothing to this effect was said by either the IAF delegation nor Mr. Khaddam."

Dr. Farhan was countering a report that appeared in the Al Majd, a pro-Syrian weekly, which cited anonymous sources as saying that "relations between Jordan and Syria are cold due to the fact that Syria does not trust the government of Abdul Karim Kabariti."

Mr. Khaddam presumably made the alleged statement during the meeting between the IAF and Baath Party officials in Damascus.

The meeting, which marked the end of years of

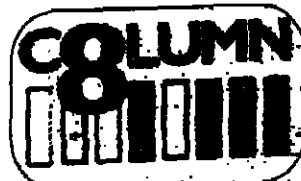
hostility between the Syrian government and Islamists, ended "with the signing of a memorandum between the IAF and SBSP which reflected their joint stand regarding the challenges facing the Arab Nation," according to a statement released last week by the IAF.

The Al Majd weekly, a self-styled opposition paper that has been campaigning against the Kabariti government since it was formed in February of last year, has clashed with Jordanian officials over its cross-border distribution in Syria.

The weekly also quoted Mr. Khaddam as saying: "While we do not trust Mr. Kabariti, we respect that he is the choice of our Jordanian brethren."

Dr. Farhan asserted in the Al Sabeel: "We beseech our journalists not to distort facts, whether intentionally or unintentionally."

The Jordan Times could not reach Dr. Farhan for further comment Tuesday. However, an Al Majd journalist who wished to remain anonymous insisted that "the information in our article is 100 per cent true, and while we cannot name our sources, we maintain that we do not publish news we are unsure of."



New York battles frivolous inmate lawsuits

ALBANY, New York (R) — New York State Attorney General Dennis Vacco has declared war on frivolous lawsuits filed by inmates, complaining that the 7,700 lawsuits filed last year alone are clogging the system. He offered his list of the "top five" most frivolous cases: Francis Hugh Smith, a burglar with a rap sheet spanning five decades, claims New York owes him \$10 million because faulty medical care caused amnesia that made him leave his work release job and forget to return to prison. Brooklyn burglar Anthony Malloy sought "\$989 billion trillion" because he said prison guards beat up his jacket, which he was not wearing at the time. His case was dismissed. Convicted killer Anthony Gill claims second-hand cigarette smoke from other inmates is causing him medical problems, although he buys cigarettes from the prison commissary. Jose Reyes, convicted of burglary, wants \$1,000 because the state made him eat "vegetable diet" loaf as discipline for violating prison rules and he lost one pound. Thomas Higgins, who sodomised and killed two children who stumbled upon a 1978 robbery, sued the state for \$10,000 because a prison laundry machine broke and he claims a constitutional right to clean clothes and blankets.

Duchess of York shoots commercial

LOS ANGELES (R) — Britain's Duchess of York, Sarah Ferguson, who is struggling to wipe out heavy debts, has shot a 30-second television commercial endorsing an American fruit drink for which she is reportedly being paid \$500,000 (\$838,000). The ad, which will be shown only in the United States, will show Fergie speaking directly to the camera, London's Mirror newspaper reported. The ad marks the first time a British royal is to endorse a product on television, but it is not an advertising debut for the duchess who in early November appeared in a magazine advert for an Olympus digital camera.

Gnome-snatchers declare truce

PARIS (R) — Gardeners in northwestern France can sleep easier at night — masked raiders who have snatched more than 30 garden gnomes and "freed" them in nearby woods have declared a truce. Members of the self-styled Garden Gnomes Liberation Front, who operate in bands of seven in respect for Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, have suspended attacks until the spring because most owners have taken the statues inside for the winter, a local journalist reported.

'Hamlet' was a 'cosmic allegory'

TORONTO (R) — William Shakespeare's "Hamlet," generally seen as an epic tragedy of guilt, madness and death, was interpreted by an astrologer as a cosmic allegory of competing renaissance views of the universe. Without being obvious, Shakespeare used the drama of the prince of Denmark to refer to emerging theories about earthly place in the Cosmos, according to Peter Usher of Pennsylvania State University. "Shakespeare anticipated the new universal order and humankind's position in it," Usher said. "The play therefore manifests as astronomical cosmology that is no less magnificent than its literary and philosophical counterparts."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### UNICEF grants \$17.5m to Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP) — The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has granted \$17.5 million to finance a five-year education, health and social services programme for Lebanon's children. The agreement was signed by Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bouez and UNICEF Representative Thomas Ekvall at the Foreign Ministry in Beirut. Mr. Ekvall said all Lebanese children will benefit from the programme, which involves immunisation and improvements in school management, curricula and teaching methods. "We hope that all children will go to school, as problems of child labour and street children are a major part of that programme," which starts this month and is expected to be completed by 2001, he said. Mr. Ekvall said UNICEF had a larger assistance programme for Lebanon, but since the end of the 1975-1990 civil war, its increasing economic growth and declining child mortality rate led to a drop in the amount of UNICEF help.

### Fog diverts flights from UAE airports

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Dozens of international flights to major United Arab Emirates (UAE) airports on Tuesday were diverted to other Gulf cities because of heavy desert fog, UAE airport officials said. Around 30 flights to Abu Dhabi have been diverted since around mid-night (2000 GMT Monday) to the Omani capital Muscat and other Gulf cities, airport officials said. Flights to Dubai and Sharjah also diverted flights. Five flights to Sharjah have been diverted since Monday night, including an Indian Airlines flight to Muscat and a Russian Aeroflot flight to the Bahraini capital Manama, airport officials said. A Lufthansa flight from Frankfurt was diverted to another UAE airport at Ras Al Khaimah while an Aeroflot flight and a flight from Afghanistan were sent to the UAE city of Fujairah. Officials said visibility at Sharjah was less than 100 metres, around 600 metres less than required for an aircraft to land. Officials at the international airport in Muscat said 20 flights from UAE airports had been diverted to the Omani capital. Fog, although not lasting as long as on Tuesday, also caused traffic accidents on Monday, including a 20-vehicle pile up in Dubai in which a Pakistani national died.

### Graft decision on Ciller postponed

ANKARA (R) — A Turkish parliamentary commission put off a decision on Tuesday on whether to send Deputy Prime Minister Tansu Ciller to the supreme court on corruption charges, the commission chief said. Member of parliament Naci Terzi said the group would meet on Wednesday after studying newly presented documents relating to the probe of Mrs. Ciller's substantial personal wealth for signs of ill-gotten gains during her three years as prime minister from 1993. "I closed the meeting so that the members could study these documents before meeting tomorrow at 1100 a.m. (0900 GMT)," Mr. Terzi told reporters. The documents related to the sale of a villa, a repurchasing agreement and the foreign ministry, deputies said. The postponement decision prompted fierce argument among the 15 members of the commission in which the government has a majority of one, witnesses said. The probe is the third corruption investigation against Mrs. Ciller, who joined a coalition with Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan last June — something she vowed she would never do until the corruption allegations emerged.



Madiha Kamel

## Madiha Kamel dies at 48

CAIRO (AP) — Madiha Kamel, Egypt's "pussycat of the screen," who later quit acting and wore a scarf to cover her hair in line with conservative Muslim beliefs, has died of a heart attack, newspapers said Tuesday.

She was 48. Kamel died in her sleep Monday. Newspaper reports said she had been suffering from blood clots in her leg for about a year.

Her daughter discovered her in bed when she did not wake up for noon prayers.

Kamel started out playing sexy young women and was nicknamed the "pussycat of the screen." Later, she took more serious roles.

One of her most famous films was "Ascending to the Abyss" in which she played an Egyptian who spies for Israel and is caught and executed. Six years ago, Kamel joined a number of other actresses who began covering their hair and wearing wide, shapeless clothing as a sign of modesty.

Kamel is survived by her daughter Mirhan. She will be buried Tuesday.

## Mubarak: Letter-bombs did not originate in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Tuesday that letterbombs sent to the Arab newspaper Al Hayat's offices in several countries, and which wounded two people in London, were not from Egypt.

"I don't think that these letters are being sent from Egypt," he said, whose postmark most of the letters bore, he told reporters.

"We have very strict inspections of letters being sent from Egypt," he said. "We are waiting today or tomorrow for a real letter coming from the (United) States to make a check from where they are being sent," Mr. Mubarak added.

Police in New York Monday disarmed three letterbombs destined for Al Hayat's office at U.N. headquarters in New York.

Several hours earlier, a letter bomb exploded at the newspaper's London headquarters, wounding two British security agents, one of whom was in serious condition.

Al Hayat bureaux in Riyadh and Washington

have also received letterbombs, which were defused.

Egyptian police have said several times that the letters could not have been sent from Egypt even though they had Egyptian postmarks.

Last week U.S. authorities announced the discovery of eight booby-trapped letters in the United States which had Egyptian postmarks.

Most were addressed to Al Hayat's Washington office, but several were sent to the high-security Leavenworth prison in the state of Kansas.

Printed simultaneously in several Arab capitals, Al Hayat belongs to Saudi Prince Khaled Ben Sultan, the general who led the Arab forces in the 1991 Gulf war to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation.

He is the son of Saudi Defence Minister Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz.

The newspaper claims a daily circulation of 130,000, is distributed worldwide and has a staff of about 100 in its London headquarters.

## UAE team visits Uday Hussein in hospital

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday received well-wishers from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as he recovered in a Baghdad hospital from an assassination attempt last month, his newspaper said Tuesday. Front-page photographs in Babel newspaper showed Uday in his bed at Ben Sina hospital greeting the UAE nationals who sailed to Iraq last Friday with 32 tonnes of donated food and medicine for sanctions-hit Iraqis.

Youth Television, which Uday, 33, also runs, showed the meeting with him as well. Uday was wounded by gunmen who opened fire on him as he drove through Baghdad's wealthy Al Mansour neighbourhood Dec. 12.

Sheikh Asaad Bayanoud Al Tumimi, a Palestinian

Islamist leader who visited Uday earlier this month, told a Kuwait newspaper that Uday barely moved in his bed but said he could not confirm if he was paralysed.

A report Sunday in the London-based Arab daily Al Hayat said Iraq wanted to send Uday to France for medical treatment because he "is seriously wounded in the lower part of his body" and will need several operations to walk again.

But France says it has no plans to admit Uday for treatment.

The Iraqi Shiite Muslim opposition group Al Dawa Islamiyah and a member of the Dulaimi tribe have both claimed responsibility for the ambush on Uday.

The organiser of the UAE shipment to Iraq, Aref Al Abbar, told AFP that his country has launched a new fundraising campaign to send 1,000 more tonnes of food and medicine to Iraq by the end of the month.

The UAE government, which has had no relations with Iraq since the 1991 Gulf war to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation, has made several appeals for Arab reconciliation with Iraq.

### Babel hails protesters

In an editorial on Tuesday, the Babel daily hailed protesters who interrupted U.S. Senate confirmation hearings last week for Secretary of State-designate Madeleine Albright.

"Oh, old Albright, these five (protestors) are a sample of the American people who are convinced that their government's policy towards Iraq is inhumane," the newspaper said.

Five protesters briefly interrupted the Jan. 8 hearing, accusing her of starving Iraqi children by helping to maintain U.N. sanctions against Baghdad as the U.S. ambassador to the U.N.

"The message given to you by these five people is worth more than all the messages which are provided to you by radars and satellites," said Babel.

Ms. Albright told the protesters she shared their concern for Iraqi children, but that Saddam Hussein did not. "Only stupid people gave credit to the false report Albright" presented to the Senate which will decide whether to approve her nomination as secretary of state on Jan. 21, Babel added.

## Crown Prince

AMMAN (PEW) — Hassan and Wedi intervention in the most timely in saving for independence remarks during a Prince Minister and Jacques Pons and There are two main referees question a with the European Union. Prince remain silent while the future of Work Agency for P emphasised human development and co

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## Arafat

## Midnight

## Netanyahu

## support

## pullback

## AMMAN (PEW) —

AMMAN (PEW) — Israeli peace process leaders since the Oslo agreement signed in 1993. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Wednesday said he would not accept any Israeli demands ahead of implementation.

The agreement from the Middle East peace process since the Oslo agreement in May and made possible with a date implementation effort.

Israel's cabinet, a coalition of right-wing and left-wing, met for more than an hour to study the agreement.

Members from the Palestinian Authority protested against the prime minister's decision.

The Israeli leader Yitzhak Mordechai said the decision was a "betrayal" of the Oslo agreement.

He also said his cabinet would not accept the agreement.

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